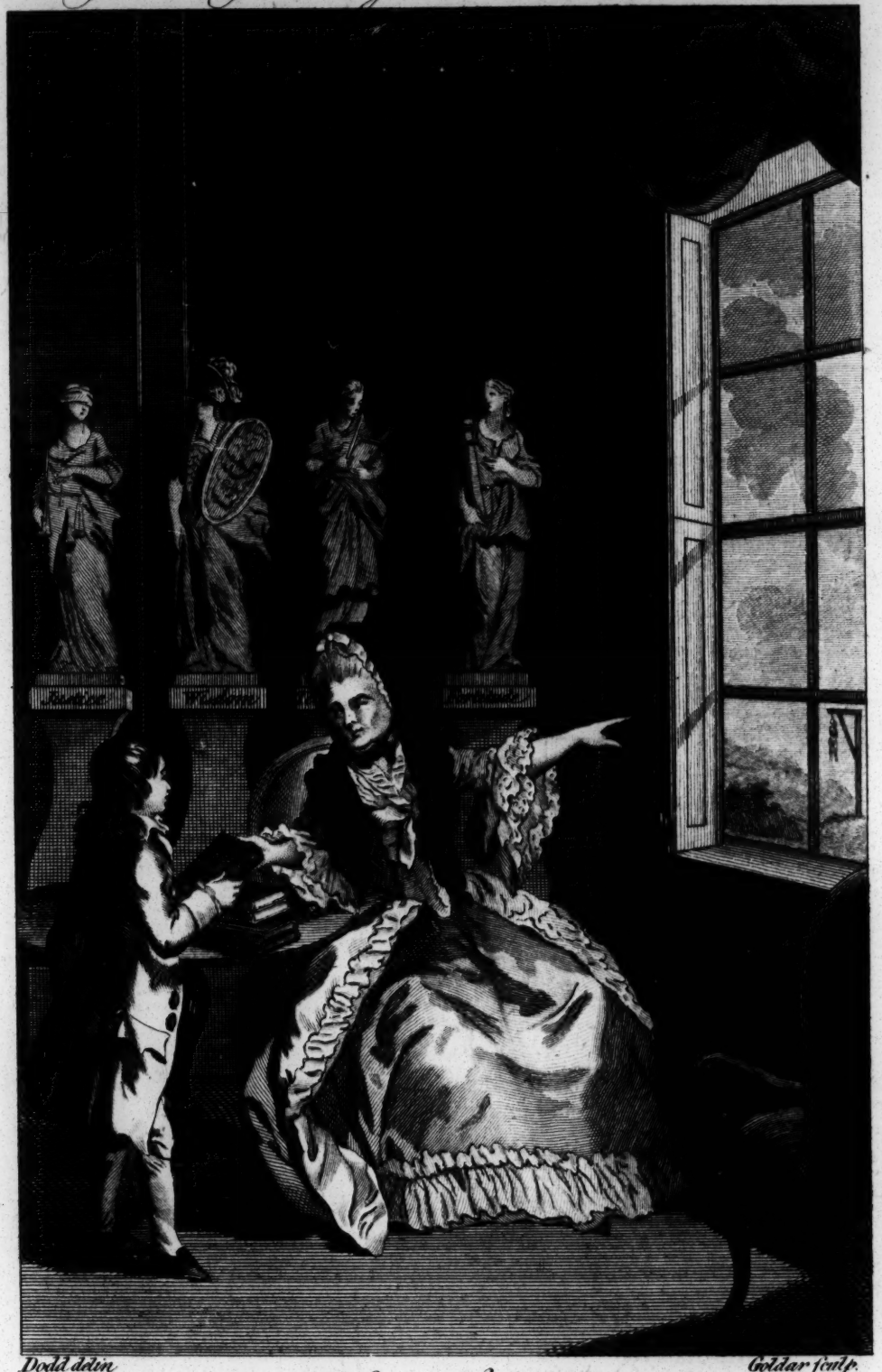
FRONTISPIECE.

A Mother presenting The Malefactor's Regiſter *to her Son, and tenderly intreating him to regard the Inſtructions therein recorded.*



Dodd delin *Goldar ſculp.*

The anxious Mother, with a Parents Care,
Preſents our Labours to her future Heir
"The Wiſe, the Brave, the Temperate, and the Juſt,
Who love their Neighbour, and in God who truſt,
Safe through the Dang'rous paths of Life may Steer,
Nor dread thoſe Evils we exhibit Here".

THE MALEFACTOR's REGISTER;

OR, THE NEWGATE and TYBURN CALENDAR.

CONTAINING THE

AUTHENTIC LIVES, TRIALS, ACCOUNTS OF EXECUTIONS, AND DYING SPEECHES,

OF THE MOST NOTORIOUS

VIOLATORS OF THE LAWS OF THEIR COUNTRY;

WHO HAVE

Suffered DEATH, and other exemplary PUNISHMENTS, in *England*, *Scotland* and *Ireland*, from the Year 1700 to LADY-DAY 1779.

Together with

NUMEROUS TRIALS in EXTRAORDINARY CASES, where the Parties have been ACQUITTED.

This Work comprehends all the moſt material Paſſages in the SESSIONS-PAPERS for a long Series of Years, and complete NARRATIVES of all the Capital TRIALS for

BIGAMY,	HIGH-TREASON,	RIOTS,
BURGLARY,	MURDER,	STREET-ROBBERY,
FELONY,	PETIT-TREASON,	UNNATURAL CRIMES,
FORGERY,	PIRACY,	And various other
HIGHWAY-ROBBERY,	RAPES,	OFFENCES.

To which is added,

A correct Liſt of all the Capital Convictions at the Old Bailey, &c. ſince the Commencement of the preſent Century; which will be of the higheſt Uſe to refer to on many Occaſions.

The whole tending, by a general Diſplay of the Progreſs and Conſequence of Vice, to impreſs on the Mind proper Ideas of the Happineſs reſulting from a Life of ſtrict Honor and Integrity: and to convince Individuals of the ſuperior Excellence of thoſe Laws framed for the Protection of their Lives and Properties.

Such is the Folly, ſuch the Fate
Attendant on diſhoneſt Schemes,
That Villains ever find, too late,
An End to their deluſive Dreams.
We *ſee—and oftimes* they *confeſs*
With their departing Breath,
" *The* Paths *of* Honour *lead to Peace,*
The Ways *of* Vice—*to Death.*"

Embelliſhed with a moſt elegant and ſuperb ſet of Copper Plates, engraved in a ſpirited Manner, from original Deſigns, by capital Artiſts.

LONDON:
Printed, by Authority, for ALEXANDER HOGG, at No. 16, Paternoſter-Row.



To Sir JOHN FIELDING, Knt.

SIR,

THE deſign of this work gives it a natural claim to your patronage: and the compilers of it are happy in the opportunity the publication affords them of placing it under your protection.

The plan your genius has ſuggeſted, for the ſpeedy detection of offenders, can be equalled only by the vigilance with which this plan is carried into execution on every proper occaſion.

It may not be prudent to develope to the public the extent of the ſcheme laid down for the detection of offenders; becauſe this might, in ſome degree, prevent its execution: but we muſt be excuſed for remarking that if

any ſingle villain was properly apprized of the nature of this ſcheme, he would, from motives of fear only, be very cautious how he violated the laws of his country.

Theſe laws had been framed in vain if the vigilance of the magiſtrates had not been exerted to carry them into execution.

It is to you, Sir, we owe it, that the ſpirit of many magiſtrates in the country has been called forth in behalf of the community; and, from your joint endeavours, we have every reaſon to expect the happieſt conſequences to the public.

We are, Sir,

Your moſt obliged

humble Servants,

The EDITORS.

PRE-

PREFACE.

IN an age abandoned to diſſipation, and when the ties of religion and morality fail to have their accuſtomed influence on the mind, the publication of a work of this nature makes its appearance with peculiar propriety.

It has not been unuſual, of late years, to complain of the ſanguinary complection of our laws; and if there were any reaſon to expect that the practice of felony would be leſſened by the inſtitution of any laws leſs ſanguinary than thoſe now in force, it would be a good argument for the enacting of ſuch laws.

Wiſe and virtuous legiſlators can wiſh nothing more ardently than the general welfare of the community; and thoſe who have from time to time given birth to the laws of England, have indiſputably done it with a view to this general welfare. But as the wiſeſt productions of the human mind are liable to error, and as there is viſibly an encreaſing

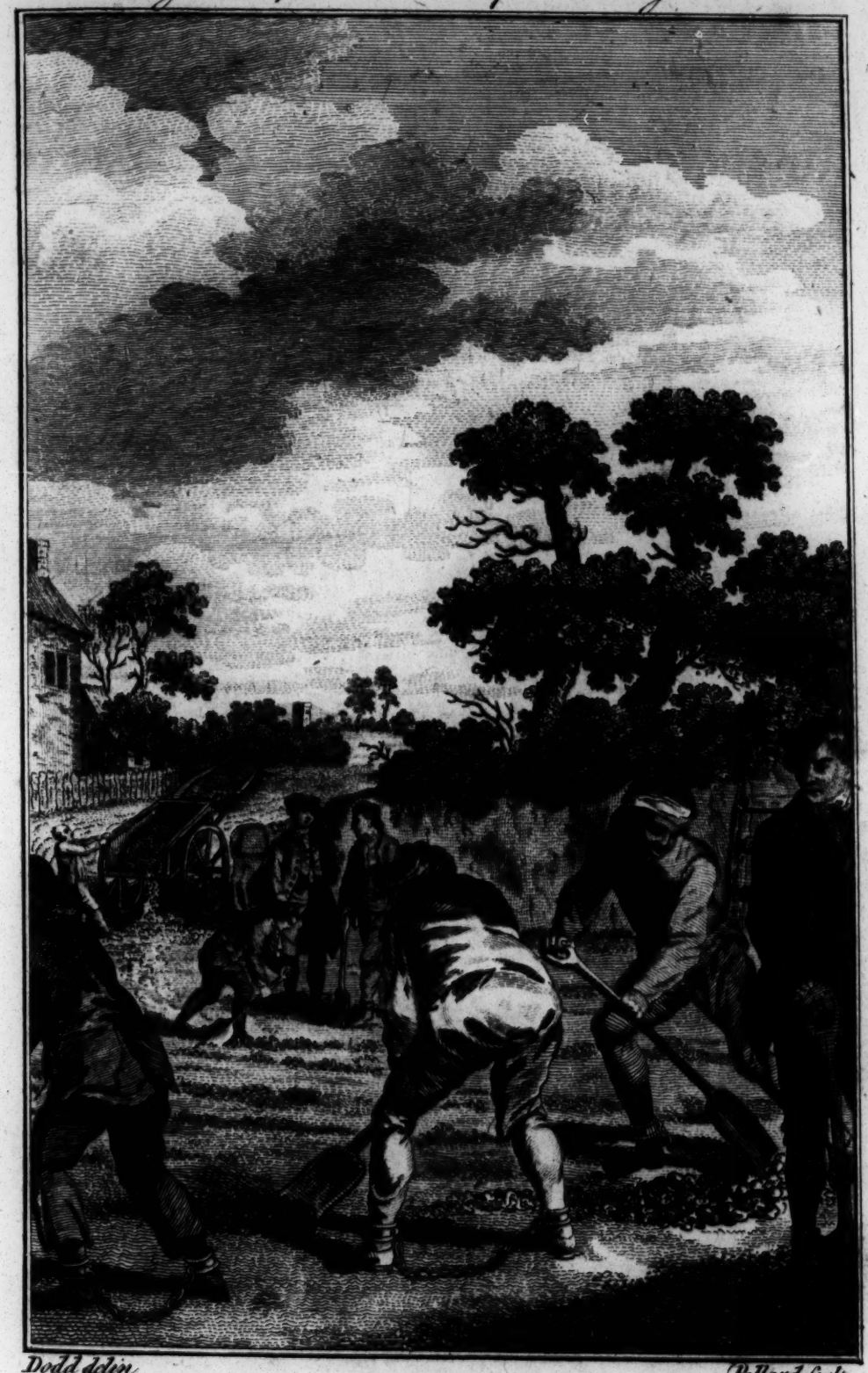
encreaſing depravity in the manners of the age, it is no wonder that our laws are found, in ſome inſtances, inadequate to the purpoſes for which they were enacted: and, perhaps, if, in a few inſtances they were made more, and in others leſs ſevere than they are at preſent, the happieſt conſequences might reſult to the public.

It is with the utmoſt deference to the wiſdom of their ſuperiors, that the editors of this work offer the following hints for the improvement of the police of this country, and the ſecurity of the lives and properties of the ſubject: and,

1ſt. If his majeſty would be graciouſly pleaſed to let the law operate in its *full force* againſt every convicted houſebreaker, it would probably greatly leſſen the number of thoſe atrocious offenders; and conſequently add to the repoſe of every family of property in the kindom. What can be conceived more dreadful than a band of ruffians drawing the curtains of the bed at midnight, and preſenting the drawn dagger, and the loaded piſtol? The imagination will paint the terrors of ſuch a ſituation, in a light more ſtriking than language can diſplay them.

2dly. If the ſame royal prerogative was exerted for the puniſhment of women convicts, it would indiſputably produce very happy effects. It is to the low and abandoned women that hundreds of young fellows owe their deſtruction.

Engraved for The Malefactor's Register.



Dodd delin *Pollard sculp*

A New Plan proposed for the punishment of
HIGHWAYMEN, *by Hard Labour on the* ROADS.



They rob, they plunder, to ſupport theſe wretches. Let it not ſeem cruel that we make one remark, of which we are convinced experience would juſtify the propriety. The execution of *ten* women would do more public ſervice than that of a *hundred* men; for, excluſive of the force of example, it would perhaps tend to the preſervation of more than a hundred.

3dly. Notorious defrauds, by gambling or otherwiſe, ſhould be rendered capital felonies by a ſtatute; for, as the law now ſtands, after a temporary puniſhment, the common cheat is turned looſe to make freſh depredations on the public.

4thly. Forgery, enormous as the crime is, in a commercial ſtate, might perhaps be more effectually puniſhed and prevented than at preſent, by dooming the convict to *labour for life* on board the ballaſt-lighters. Forgerers are ſeldom among the low and abandoned part of mankind. Forgery is very often the laſt dreadful refuge to which the diſtreſſed tradeſman flies. Theſe people then are ſenſible of ſhame, and perpetual infamy would be abundantly more terrible to ſuch men than the mere dread of death.

5thly. Highwaymen, we conceive, might with propriety be puniſhed by labouring on the high-way, chained by the legs, agreeable to a deſign we have given in a plate in this work. Many a young fellow is hardened enough to think

think of taking a purſe on the highway, to ſupply his extravagancies, who would be terrified from the practice, if he knew he could not ride half a dozen miles out of London, without ſeeing a number of highwaymen working together, under the ignominious circumſtances above-mentioned.

With regard to murderers, and perſons convicted of unnatural crimes, we cannot think of altering the preſent mode of puniſhment. "Him that ſheddeth man's blood, by man ſhall "his blood be ſhed:" as to the other wretches, it is only to be lamented that their deaths cannot be aggravated by every ſpecies of torment!

Having ſaid thus much, we ſubmit our labours to the candid reviſion of the public, nothing doubting that, on a careful peruſal, they will be found to anſwer the purpoſe of guarding the minds of youth againſt the approaches of vice; and, in conſequence, of advancing the happineſs of the community.

THE

THE

MALEFACTOR's REGISTER,

OR,

The NEWGATE and TYBURN CALENDAR.

PRELIMINARY ADVERTISEMENT.

AS it is the profeſſed intention of the compilers of this work to exert their utmoſt endeavours to let entertainment and improvement go hand in hand therein, they think it neceſſary to apprize the reader that they do not mean to ſwell their volumes with recitals of accounts of trials, convictions, &c. that have nothing intereſting to recommend them: on the contrary, it is their intention to inſert in this collection ſuch narratives only as become valuable from the ſingular circumſtances with which they were attended; and not a ſingle event of this nature, ſince the commencement of the preſent century, ſhall remain unrecorded.

Courts of juſtice (or, in other words, the laws of the land,) require that the truth, the *whole truth*, ſhould be told: hence, in particular inſtances, it will be impoſſible to preſerve that per-

fect purity of expreſſion that we could wiſh: but theſe inſtances will be few, and, as they neceſſarily ariſe from the nature of the ſubject, they will be altogether pardonable.

In former works of this nature it has been cuſtomary to give the cant phraſes uſed by thieves: but this we ſhall carefully avoid, except in inſtances where the introduction of a particular phraſe may be neceſſary to the underſtanding of the ſtory; for we write not for the inſtruction of thieves, but to guard the honeſt and unwary againſt their lawleſs depredations, and to caution youth from purſuing their deſtructive practices.

The compilers of this work return their ſincereſt thanks to thoſe gentlemen who have communicated either printed or manuſcript trials and narratives, which may tend to the perfection of their plan; and they aſſure their worthy contributors, that their favours have not been conferred on the ungrateful. Every prudent uſe ſhall be made of their communications, and they are morally certain that the public will reap an advantage, from what was intended as a private compliment.

APRIL 20, 1778.

Particulars reſpecting the Caſes of MICHAEL VAN-BERGHEN, CATHERINE VAN-BERGHEN, and GERRARD DROMELIUS, who robbed and murdered OLIVER NORRIS, for which they ſuffered death in Eaſt-Smithfield.

THE wretched ſubjects of this narrative were natives of Holland, but having ſettled in England, Michael Van-Berghen and his wife

wife kept a public-houſe near Eaſt-Smithfield, and Dromelius acted as their ſervant.

A country gentleman of the name of Norris, who lodged at an inn near Aldgate, went into the houſe of Van-Berghen about eight o'clock in the evening, and continued to drink there till about eleven. Finding himſelf rather intoxicated, he deſired the maid ſervant to call a coach to carry him home. As ſhe was going to do ſo, her miſtreſs whiſpered her, and bid her return in a little time, and ſay that a coach was not to be procured. Theſe directions being obſerved, Norris, on the maid's return, reſolved to go without a coach, and accordingly took his leave of the family; but he had not gone far before he diſcovered that he had been robbed of a purſe containing a ſum of money: whereupon he returned, and charged Van-Berghen and his wife with having been guilty of the robbery. This they poſitively denied, and threatened to turn him out of the houſe: but he refuſed to go, and reſolutely went into a room where the cloth was laid for ſupper.

Dromelius now entered the room, and treating Mr. Norris in a very cavalier manner, the latter reſented the inſult, till a perfect quarrel enſued. At this juncture Van-Berghen ſeized a poker, with which he fractured Mr. Norris's ſkull, and in the mean time Dromelius ſtabbed him in different parts of the body, Mrs. Van-Berghen being preſent during the perpetration of the horrid deed.

Mr. Norris being dead, his body was ſtripped of his coat, waiſtcoat, hat, wig, &c. and then Van-Berghen and Dromelius carried the body, and threw it into a ditch which communicated with the Thames: and in the mean time Mrs.

Van-Berghen waſhed the blood of the deceaſed from the floor of the room. The cloaths which had been ſtripped from the deceaſed were put up in a hamper, and committed to the care of Dromelius, who took a boat, and carried them over to Rotherhithe, where he employed the waterman to carry the hamper to lodgings which he had taken, and in which he propoſed to remain until he could find a favourable opportunity of embarking for Holland.

On the following morning at low water the body of a gentleman was found, and ſeveral of the neighbours went to take a view of it, and endeavoured to try if they could trace any blood to the place where the murder might have been committed: but not ſucceeding in this, ſome of them, who were up at a very early hour, recollected that they had ſeen Van-Berghen and Dromelius coming almoſt from the ſpot where the body was found; and remarked that a light had been carried backwards and forwards in Van-Berghen's houſe.

Hereupon the houſe was ſearched: but no diſcovery was made, except that a little blood was found behind the door of a room which appeared to have been lately mopped. Enquiry was made after Dromelius; but Van-Berghen and his wife would give no other account than that he had left their ſervice: on which they were taken into cuſtody, with the ſervant maid, who was the principal evidence againſt them. At this juncture appeared the waterman who had carried Dromelius to Rotherhithe, and who knowing him well, he likewiſe was ſoon taken into cuſtody.

On the trial all the circumſtances above-mentioned appeared ſo ſtriking to the jury, that they did not heſitate to find the priſoners guilty, and accord-

accordingly they received ſentence of death. The priſoners were tried by a jury of half Engliſhmen and half foreigners; a generous and candid mode of proceeding peculiar to the criminal courts of this country.

After condemnation, and a ſhort time before the day of execution, Dromelius aſſured the ordinary of Newgate that the murder was committed by himſelf, and was preceded and followed by theſe circumſtances: that Mr. Norris being very much in liquor, and deſirous of going to his inn, Mr. Van-Berghen directed him to attend him thither: that ſoon after they left the houſe, Norris went into a broken building to eaſe himſelf; where uſing opprobrious language to Dromelius, and attempting to draw his ſword, he wreſted it from his hand, and ſtabbed him with it in ſeveral places; that this being done, Norris groaned very much; and Dromelius hearing a watchman coming, and fearing a diſcovery, drew a knife, cut his throat, and thereby put an end to his life. In anſwer to this it was ſaid, that the ſtory was altogether improbable: for if Mr. Norris had been killed in the manner above-mentioned, ſome blood would have been found on the ſpot, and there would have been holes in his cloaths from the ſtabbing; neither of which was the caſe. Still, however, Dromelius perſiſted in his declaration, with a view to ſave the life of his miſtreſs, with whom he was thought to have a criminal connection; and indeed he confeſſed that he had been too familiar with her.

At the place of execution Mr. and Mrs. Van-Berghen were attended by ſome divines of their own country, as well as Engliſh clergymen; and deſired the prayers of them all. Mr. Van-Berghen, unable to ſpeak intelligibly in Engliſh, con-

verſed

verſed in Latin; a circumſtance from which it may be inferred that he had been educated in a ſtile ſuperior to the rank of life which he had lately held. He ſaid that the murder was not committed in his houſe, and that he knew no more of it, than that Dromelius came to him, while he lay in bed, informed him that he had wounded the gentleman, and begged him to aid his eſcape: but that when he knew Mr. Norris was murdered, he offered money to ſome perſons to purſue the murderer: but of this circumſtance, which might have been favourable to him, he brought no proof on his trial.

Mrs. Van-Berghen alſo ſolemnly declared that ſhe knew nothing of the murder till after it was perpetrated, which was not in their houſe: that Dromelius coming into the chamber, and ſaying he had murdered the gentleman, ſhe went for the hamper to hold the bloody cloaths, and aſſiſted Dromelius in his eſcape, a circumſtance which would not be deemed criminal in her country.*

Dromelius, when at the place of execution, perſiſted in his former tale; but deſired the prayers of the ſurrounding multitude, whom he warned to beware of the indulgence of violent paſſions, to which he then fell an untimely ſacrifice.

The above-mentioned criminals were executed near the Hartſhorn Brewhouſe, Eaſt-Smithfield, being the neareſt convenient ſpot to the place where the murder was committed, on the tenth of July in the year 1700. The men were hung in chains between Bow and Mile-End, but the woman was buried,

From

* In this ſhe was miſtaken; for in Holland, acceſſaries before or after the fact are accounted as principals.

From the above narrative an important leſſon may be learnt, particularly by our country readers. Mr. Norris was a country gentleman: the houſe kept by Van-Berghen was, at the beſt, of very doubtful fame. Country gentlemen, when called to London on buſineſs, ſhould be particularly cautious never to enter ſuch a houſe. If this unhappy gentleman had gone only where buſineſs called him, he might have eſcaped the fatal cataſtrophe that befel him, and have long lived to bleſs his family and friends and do credit to his country.

In the diſcovery of the murder above-mentioned, the intervention of providence is obvious. Every poſſible care was taken to conceal it; yet blood was found in the room where the murder was committed; and the thoughtleſsneſs of Dromelius reſpecting the waterman, contributed to lead to a ready diſcovery of the fact. Nothing is hid from the all-ſeeing eye of God! Let the righteous juſtice executed on the malefactors above-mentioned impreſs on the minds of our readers the force of the ſixth commandment;— "Thou ſhalt do no MURDER."

Particulars reſpecting the Life, Trial, and Execution of JOHN SIMPSON, who was hanged at Tyburn for Houſe-breaking.

THIS man was not ſo much diſtinguiſhed by any particular circumſtance that attended the crime of which he was convicted, as by the peculiarities of his former life, which are well worthy the peruſal of the reader.

Moſt

Moſt of the following particulars reſpecting him are taken from his own declarations while under ſentence of death, and the reſt from authentic papers. During a great part of the war in the reign of king William he was a ſoldier, in Flanders, where he uſed to take frequent opportunities of robbing the tents of the officers; and once, when the army lay before Mons, and his majeſty commanded in perſon, Simpſon happened to be one of thoſe who were ſelected to guard the royal tent. On an evening when the king, accompanied by the earl (afterwards duke) of Marlborough, and lord Cutts, went out to take a view of the ſituation of the army, Simpſon, with a degree of impudence peculiar to himſelf, went into his majeſty's tent, and ſtole about a thouſand pounds. It was ſome days before this money was miſſed, and when the robbery was diſcovered Simpſon eſcaped all ſuſpicion. He ſaid he had committed more robberies than he could poſſibly recollect, having been a highwayman as well as a houſe-breaker.

His robberies in Flanders as well as in England had been very numerous, and he affirmed that the gates of the city of Ghent had been twice ſhut up within a fortnight, to prevent his eſcape, and that, when he was taken, his arms, legs, back and neck were ſecured with irons, in which condition he was carried through the ſtreets, that he might be ſeen by the people.

Simpſon and two of his companions uſed frequently to ſtop and rob the Roman catholics at five o'clock in the morning, as they were going to maſs, he repeatedly broke into the churches of Bruſſels, Mechlin and Antwerp, and ſtole the ſilver plate from the altar.

This

This offender acknowledged that having killed one of his companions in a quarrel, he was apprehended, tried, and condemned for the fact, by a court martial of officers, and ſentenced to be executed on the following day, in ſight of the army, which was to be drawn up to ſee the execution. During the night, however, he found means to eſcape, and took refuge in the church of St. Peter in Ghent, where the army then lay. Being thus in a place of ſanctuary, he applied to the prieſts, who made intereſt with prince Eugene; and their joint interceſſion with king William, who arrived in the city about four days afterwards, obtained his full pardon, and he was permitted immediately to join the army.

It is but reaſonable to think that the obligations he had to theſe prieſts would have inſpired him with ſentiments of gratitude: but this was ſo far from being the caſe, that, in a few days after he had obtained his pardon, he broke into the church, and robbed it of plate to the value of twelve hundred pounds; which he was the better enabled to do, as he was acquainted with the avenues of the church, and knew where the plate was depoſited. He was apprehended on ſuſpicion of this ſacrilege: for as a crime of this kind is ſeldom committed by the natives of the country, it was conjectured that it muſt have been perpetrated by ſome one, at leaſt, of the ſoldiers; and information being given that two Jews had embarked in a boat on the Scheld, for Middleburgh, on the day ſucceeding the robbery, and that Simpſon had been ſeen in company with theſe Jews, this occaſioned his being taken into cuſtody: but as no proof aroſe that he had ſold

any plate to theſe men, it was neceſſary to diſmiſs him.

The army being ordered to England, and the regiment reduced, in conſequence of the peace of Reſwyck, in the year 1697, Simpſon was among thoſe who were diſcharged, and with him were likewiſe diſmiſſed ſome of thoſe who had been concerned with him in his depredations in Flanders.

It is not at all extraordinary that thoſe who had aſſociated together abroad, ſhould join to perpetrate acts of villainy in their native country; and accordingly, we find that Simpſon and his companions were concerned in a great number of robberies on the roads near London, Simpſon being choſen as the leader of the gang, and dignified by the title of captain. When they were unſucceſsful on the highway, they had recourſe to houſe-breaking; and they continued theſe practices for about three years, during which period ſeveral of Simpſon's companions were apprehended, tried, convicted and executed.

At length Simpſon himſelf was taken into cuſtody, and indicted at the ſeſſions held at the Old Bailey, in the month of July 1700, for breaking open the dwelling-houſe of Elizabeth Gawden, and ſtealing two feather-beds, and other articles. To this indictment he pleaded guilty, and received ſentence of death. He declared that he had never murdered any perſon in conſequence of his robberies; but that he had killed four or five men in private quarrels. He was executed at Tyburn on the 20th of July 1700, having firſt declared that his real name was John Holliday, and that he had broken out of Newgate about Chriſtmas preceding the laſt apprehenſion.

The

The fate of this malefactor preſents a ſtriking leſſon of caution to two kinds of people: viz. thoſe of his own rank who are either out of, or in the army. The former will ſee that in this inſtance, as in every other, the paths of vice lead to deſtruction: the latter will, we truſt, be taught to learn obedience to their ſuperiors; for if this offender had been properly impreſſed with a ſenſe of that duty, the robbing of his king could never have entered his imagination. The crime of ſacrilege, of which he was repeatedly guilty, has been held in univerſal abhorrence by all civilized nations, and is juſtly puniſhed in the ſevereſt manner. Many years have now elapſed ſince his offences brought him to a deplorable end; but it is to be hoped that the diſtance of time will not weaken the impreſſion: ſince what was worthy of regard, and proper to enforce ſerious ideas, at the beginning of this century, cannot be leſs ſo at the preſent moment. One good end may be anſwered, one good reſolution formed, by reading any ſingle trial in theſe volumes; and we truſt that thoſe who ſhall peruſe them all, will find their hearts amended while their minds are entertained, and that they will become wiſer and better while they ſeek inſtruction from the calamities of others.

Abſtract of the Caſe of GEORGE CADDELL, who was executed at Stafford, for the murder of ELIZABETH PRICE.

THIS young gentleman was a native of the town of Broomſgrove in Worceſterſhire, at which place he was articled to an apothecary,

thecary, with whom he ſerved his time, and then repaired to London, where he walked ſeveral of the hoſpitals, to give him an inſight into the art of ſurgery.

When he had obtained a tolerable proficience herein, he retired from London, and went to Worceſter, where he lived with Mr. Randall, a capital ſurgeon of that city; and in this ſituation he was equally admired for the depth of his abilities, and the amiableneſs of his temper. Here he married the daughter of Mr. Randall, who died in labour of her firſt child.

After this melancholy event he went to reſide at Litchfield, and continued upwards of two years with Mr. Dean, a ſurgeon of that place. During his reſidence here, he courted the daughter of that gentleman, to whom he would probably have been ſoon married, but for the commiſſion of the crime which coſt him his life.

A young lady named Elizabeth Price, who had been debauched by an officer in the army, lived near Mr. Caddell's place of reſidence; and, after her misfortune, ſupported herſelf by her ſkill in needle-work. Caddell becoming acquainted with her, a conſiderable degree of intimacy ſubſiſted between them; and Miſs Price, degraded as ſhe was by the unfortunate ſtep ſhe had taken, ſtill thought herſelf an equal match for one of Mr. Caddell's rank of life.

At length ſhe informed Caddell that a pregnancy was the conſequence of their connection; and repeatedly urged him to marry her, to prevent her being a ſecond time diſgraced in the eyes of the public.

Caddell reſiſted her importunities for a conſiderable time; but at length ſhe heard of his paying his addreſſes to Miſs Dean; on which ſhe became

came more importunate than ever, and threatened that if he refuſed his conſent to wed her, ſhe would put an end to all his proſpects with that young lady, by diſcovering every thing that had paſſed between them.

It was on this unhappy occaſion that Caddell formed the horrid reſolution of murdering Miſs Price: for he could neither bear the thought of forfeiting the eſteem of the woman that he courted, nor of marrying her who had granted the laſt favour to at leaſt one other man, as well as himſelf.

This dreadful ſcheme having entered his head, he called on Miſs Price on a Saturday evening, and requeſted that ſhe would walk in the fields with him on the afternoon of the following day, in order to adjuſt the plan of their intended marriage. Miſs Price now thought that the wound in her reputation would be healed, and on the following day ſhe met him on the road leading towards Burton upon Trent, at a houſe known by the ſign of the Nag's-head.

The two ſuppoſed lovers went into the fields, and having walked about till towards evening, they then ſat down under a hedge, where having ſpent ſome time in converſation, he pulled out a knife, cut her throat, and made his eſcape, but not before he had waited till ſhe was dead.

In the diſtraction of his mind, however, he left behind him the knife with which he had perpetrated the deed, together with his caſe of inſtruments. When he came home it was obſerved that he appeared exceedingly confuſed; though the reaſon of the perturbation of his mind could not even be gueſſed at. But on the following morning Miſs Price being found murdered in the field,

field, great numbers of people went to take a view of the body, among whom was the woman of the houſe where ſhe lodged, who recollected that ſhe had ſaid ſhe was going to walk with Mr. Caddell; on which the inſtruments were examined, and known to have belonged to him: whereupon he was taken into cuſtody, and committed to the jail of Stafford; and being ſoon afterwards tried, he was found guilty, condemned, and executed.

We have no particular account of the behaviour of this malefactor while under ſentence of death, or at the place of execution: yet his fate will afford an inſtructive leſſon to youth. Let no young man who has connections of any kind with one woman, think of paying his addreſſes to another. There can be no ſuch thing as honourable courtſhip, while diſhonourable love ſubſiſts. Mr. Caddell might have lived a credit to himſelf, and an ornament to his profeſſion, if he had not held a criminal connection with Miſs Price. Her fate ought to impreſs on the mind of our female readers the importance of modeſt reſerve to a woman. We would not be ſevere on the failings of the ſex; but we cannot help obſerving, that a woman who has fallen a ſacrifice to the arts of one man, ſhould be very cautious in yielding to the addreſſes of another. One falſe ſtep may be recovered; but the progreſs of vice is a down-hill road; and the farther we depart from the paths of virtue, ſtill the faſter we run. On the contrary, the ways of virtue are pleaſant; and "all her paths are paths of peace." From this ſtory likewiſe the young officers of our army may learn an uſeful leſſon: for if Miſs Price had not been debauched by one of that pro-

profeſſion, the fatal cataſtrophes above-mentioned had never happened.

Caddell ſuffered at Stafford on the 21ſt of July, 1700.

A compendious Account of the Caſe of GEORGE GRIFFITHS, who ſuffered death at Tyburn, for privately ſtealing from his maſter.

MR. GRIFFITHS was the ſon of an apothecary of extenſive practice at Thetford, in the county of Norfolk. After receiving the rudiments of his education at the grammar-ſchool of the town above-mentioned, he was articled as a clerk to an attorney of eminence in London, and ſoon became diſtinguiſhed for his attention to, and knowledge of buſineſs. His father dying during his clerkſhip, and having a large family, left his ſon George only about a hundred pounds.

Young Griffiths, as ſoon as his clerkſhip was expired, contracted with his maſter to manage his buſineſs for a certain annual ſtipend; and he diſcharged his duty for a conſiderable time with great regularity: but unhappily becoming acquainted with ſome young lawyers who poſſeſſed more money than diſcretion, he ſoon ſpent the little fortune which his father had bequeathed to him, and alſo became indebted to ſeveral of his maſter's employers.

During great part of Griffiths's ſervitude, the only daughter of his employer had been at a boarding-ſchool at Windſor for the advantage of education; and now returning home, her father, who was uncommonly tender of her, requeſted

that

that ſhe would take his domeſtic affairs under her own management.

The old gentleman being very much from home, the buſineſs of the office was committed to the care of Mr. Griffiths; and an intimacy ſoon enſued between him and the young lady, in whoſe company he ſpent all thoſe evenings in which he had not particular engagements with his old aſſociates. The conſequence was that their acquaintance ripened into eſteem; their eſteem into love. The reciprocal declaration ſoon took place, and the young lady conſidered Mr. Griffiths as the man who was to be her future huſband.

A few weeks after this event took place Griffiths was under a neceſſity of attending his maſter on the Norfolk circuit, and while he was in the country he held a conſtant correſpondence with the young lady; but the father was totally unacquainted with all that had paſſed, and had not formed the leaſt idea that his daughter had any kind of connection with his clerk; but at length the circumſtances of the affair tranſpired in the following manner.

The young lady having gone to Windſor for a few days, on a viſit to her former acquaintance, continued to correſpond with Mr. Griffiths. On a particular day when Griffiths was not at home, it happened that a letter was brought to the office, directed to this unfortunate man; when one of the clerks, imagining that it might be of conſequence, carried it to his maſter, at an adjacent coffee-houſe. It is impoſſible that any language ſhould expreſs the ſurprize of the old gentleman, when he ſaw the name of his daughter ſubſcribed to a letter, in which ſhe acknowledged herſelf as the future wife of the clerk.

The father knew that Griffiths had no fortune; but he ſoon found that he had been maſter of ſufficient art, to prevail on the daughter to believe that he was poſſeſſed of conſiderable property. Hereupon he repreſented to his daughter the great impropriety of her conduct; in anſwer to which ſhe ſaid that Mr. Griffiths was a man of fortune, though he had hitherto carefully concealed this circumſtance from her father. However, it was not long before a diſcovery was made, which repreſented Mr. Griffiths's ſituation in a light equally new and diſagreeable.

For a conſiderable time paſt his maſter had acted as the ſolicitor in a capital cauſe depending in chancery; but the determination reſpecting it had been put off, on account of lord Sommers being removed from the office of chancellor, and the great ſeal given in commiſſion to Sir Nathan Wright. The ſollicitor had received conſiderable ſums while the cauſe was depending, which he had committed to the care of his clerk; but the latter, preſſed for caſh to ſupply his extravagance, purloined ſome of this money. At length, the cauſe was determined, and Griffiths was called upon to account with his maſter, for the money in his hands.

Shocked by this demand he knew not what courſe to take. He was already conſiderably indebted to different people and had not a friend to whom he could apply for as much money as was deficient in his accounts: but being driven to the utmoſt neceſſity, he came to the reſolution of breaking open his maſter's bureau, which he did while the family were aſleep, and ſtole a conſiderable ſum of money; but as nothing elſe but money was ſtolen, Griffiths would very probably

have eſcaped ſuſpicion, had he not been tempted to a repetition of his crime.

About this juncture the old gentleman and his daughter went to Tunbridge; and during their reſidence at that place of amuſement, Griffiths procured a key that would unlock his maſter's bureau, from whence he again took money to a conſiderable amount. On the maſter's return he miſſed this ſum; but ſtill he did not ſuſpect Griffiths, as the drawer was found locked: but hereupon he depoſited his jewels in the bureau, but locked up his money in another place.

The amour betwixt Griffiths and the young lady ſtill continued; and they would ſoon have been married at the Fleet, but that a fatal circumſtance now aroſe, which brought their connection to a period.

Griffiths, who, as hath already been obſerved, was poſſeſſed of a key that would open his maſter's bureau, being diſpoſed to go out and ſpend a chearful evening with his old aſſociates, opened the drawer, and was greatly diſappointed in not meeting with the money that had been left there; but finding the jewels in its ſtead, he ſtole a diamond ring, which he carried to a jeweller and ſold for twelve pounds; and then went to ſpend his evening as he had intended. The old lawyer came home about ten o'clock at night, and caſually looking into his drawer, found the ring was gone; and being enraged at this renewed robbery, he had every perſon in the houſe carefully ſearched; but no diſcovery was made.

Griffiths did not return till a late hour, and on the following day his employer told him what had happened, and requeſted that he would go to the ſeveral jewellers ſhops, and make enquiry for the loſt ring. Agreeable hereto Griffiths went

out,

out, but when he returned he acquainted his maſter that all his enquiries reſpecting it had been unſucceſsful.

However, a diſcovery of the party who had been guilty of the robbery was made in the following ſingular manner. The jeweller who had bought the ring frequented the ſame coffee-houſe with the gentleman who had loſt it, and was intimately acquainted with him, though he knew nothing of Griffiths. Now the jeweller having carefully examined the ring after he had bought it, found that he had not given the real value for it, and therefore concluded that it had been obtained in an illegal manner. Being a man who was much above the idea of having his integrity ſuſpected, he related the particulars of his purchaſe at the coffee-houſe, which the perſon who had loſt the ring hearing, deſired to have a ſight of it; and, on the firſt inſpection, knew it to be his own.

The perſon of Griffiths was now ſo exactly deſcribed by the jeweller, that there could be little doubt but that he was the thief; wherefore he was deſired to go to the chambers with a conſtable, and take him into cuſtody, if he appeared to be the man who had ſold the ring. As this was really the caſe, he was carried before a juſtice of the peace, and accuſed of the crime, which he immediately confeſſed, and likewiſe that he had robbed his maſter of money, in the manner we have already mentioned.

In conſequence hereof Griffiths was committed to Newgate, and being arraigned at the next ſeſſions at the Old-Bailey, he pleaded guilty to the indictment, and ſentence of death was paſſed on him of courſe.

As in his ſituation it was natural to ſuppoſe that he would attempt to correſpond with the young lady to whom he had aſpired as a wife, a proper perſon was employed by her father to intercept his letters; a ſervice that was performed with ſuch care, that, of a conſiderable number which he wrote, not one reached her hands.

When Mr. Griffiths found that he had nothing to hope from the intervention of the royal mercy, and conſequently that all the views with which he had flattered himſelf in wedlock were vaniſhed, he began ſeriouſly to prepare himſelf for that ſtate in which perſons "neither marry, nor are "given in marriage." He attributed his misfortunes to the aſſociating with perſons who were his ſuperiors in point of circumſtances, and the making an appearance which he was unable to ſupport, in order to ſecure the object of his wiſhes.

More than one leſſon of uſeful inſtruction may be learnt from the preceding melancholy narrative. Among the number of our young gentlemen who are ſent to the inns of court, many are of conſiderable fortune; while others have very ſcanty ſtipends; for it is the ambition of many parents to place their children in ſtations in which they cannot ſupport them with the requiſite degree of credit till they are enabled to provide for themſelves; and it is poſſible that this may be the ſource of many calamities. The wiſh to provide in a proper manner for our children is as laudable as it is natural; but many a youth owes his ruin to his being placed in a ſituation above his reaſonable views or expectations.

When it happens that a young gentleman whoſe circumſtances are rather contracted is ſent to one of our inns of court; inſtead of

frequenting play-houſes and taverns with thoſe of more liberal fortune, he ſhould ſtudy with the utmoſt aſſiduity the reverend ſages of the law, by which, in a few years, he may render himſelf ſuperior to thoſe who, at the preſent moment, may look down on him with a degree of contempt.

With regard to the unhappy ſubject of this narrative, we have only to remark, that a rigid perſeverance in the paths of honour might have finally procured him the conſummation of his wiſhes. On a preſumption that he was enamoured of his maſter's daughter, the ready way to have obtained her would have been to have ſought the approbation of her father: and as he appears to have been much confided in by the old gentleman, there ſeems to be little doubt but that modeſt perſeverance would have enſured his ſucceſs: beſides, his guilt was encreaſed in proportion to the confidence that his maſter repoſed in him.

This offender was executed at Tyburn, on the firſt of Auguſt 1700.

Reflecting on his fate ſevere
We own that love has born its part;
A tale like this muſt draw a tear
From every tender, feeling heart.

The ſingular and horrid Caſe of the Rev. THOMAS HUNTER, who was executed near Edinburgh, for the Murder of two of his Pupils.

THIS atrocious offender was born in the county of Fife, and was the ſon of a rich farmer, who ſent him to the Univerſity of St. Andrew for education. When young Hunter had

had acquired a good ſhare of claſſical learning, he was admitted to the degree of maſter of arts, and began to proſecute his ſtudies in divinity with no ſmall degree of ſucceſs.

Many of the younger clergymen in Scotland act as tutors in wealthy and diſtinguiſhed families, till a proper period arrives for their entering into orders, which they never do till they obtain a benefice. While in this rank of life they bear the name of chaplains; and in this ſtation Hunter lived about two years, in the houſe of Mr. Gordon, a very eminent merchant, and one of the bailies * of Edinburgh.

Mr. Gordon's family conſiſted of himſelf, his lady, two ſons and a daughter, a young woman who attended Mrs. Gordon and her daughter, the malefactor in queſtion, ſome clerks and menial ſervants. To the care of Hunter was committed the education of the two ſons; and for a conſiderable time he diſcharged his duty in a manner highly ſatisfactory to the parents, who conſidered him as a youth of ſuperior genius, and great goodneſs of heart.

But it happened that a connection took place between Hunter, and the young woman abovementioned, which ſoon encreaſed to a criminal degree of familiarity: but the correſpondence between them was maintained for a conſiderable time, during which the family was totally ignorant of the affair.

Theſe lovers had gone on undetected ſo long, that they grew daily leſs cautious than at the commencement of their amour; and on a particular day, when Mr. and Mrs. Gordon were on a viſit,

* A rank equal to that of alderman of London.

viſit, Hunter and his girl met in their chamber as uſual; but having been ſo incautious as not to make their door faſt, the children went into the room, and found them in ſuch a ſituation as could not admit of any doubt of the nature of their intercourſe.

However, as the eldeſt lad was not ten years of age, no ſuſpicion aroſe that the children would mention what had happened to their parents: ſo that the guilty lovers had not the leaſt idea that a diſcovery would enſue; but when the children were at ſupper with their parents, they diſcloſed ſo much as left no room to doubt of what had happened. Hereupon the female ſervant was directed to quit the houſe on the following day; but Hunter was continued in the family, after making a proper apology for the crime of which he had been guilty, attributing it to the thoughtleſsneſs of youth, and promiſing never to offend in the ſame way again.

From this period Hunter entertained the moſt inveterate hatred to all the children, on whom he determined in his own mind to wreak the moſt diabolical vengeance. Nothing leſs than murder was his intention; but it was a conſiderable time after he had formed his horrid plan, before he had an opportunity of carrying it into execution; which he at length in a great degree effected, as will be ſeen hereafter.

When the weather was fine it was his uſual cuſtom to walk in the fields with his pupils for an hour before dinner; and in theſe excurſions the young lady generally attended her brothers. At the period immediately preceding the commiſſion of the fatal fact, Mr. Gordon and his family were at their country retreat very near Edinburgh, and having received an invitation to dine in that city,

he

he and his lady propoſed to go thither about the time that Hunter uſually took his noon-tide walk with the children. Mrs. Hunter was very anxious for all the children to accompany them on this viſit; but this was ſtrenuouſly oppoſed by her huſband, who would conſent that only the little girl ſhould attend them.

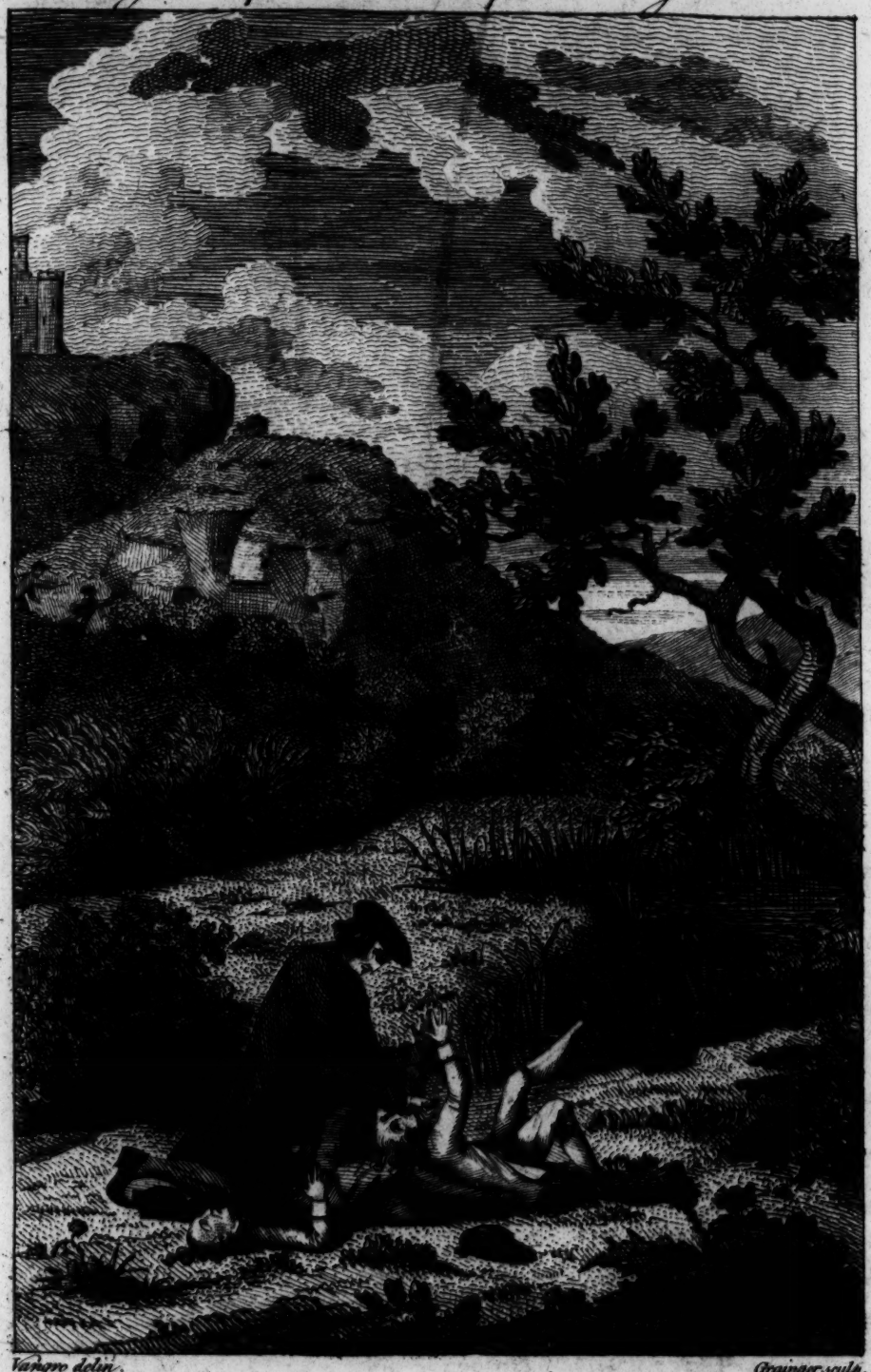
By this circumſtance Hunter's intention of murdering all the three children was fruſtrated; but he held his reſolution of deſtroying the boys while they were yet within his power. With this view he took them into the fields, and ſat down as if to repoſe himſelf on the graſs. This event took place ſoon after the middle of the month of Auguſt, and Hunter was preparing his knife to put a period to the lives of the children, at the very moment they were buſied in catching butterflies, and gathering wild flowers.

His knife being ſharpened, he called the lads to him, and having reprimanded them for acquainting their father and mother of the ſcene to which they had been witneſſes, he ſaid that he would immediately put them to death. Terrified by this threat the children ran from him; but he immediately followed, and brought them back. He then placed his knee on the body of the one, while he cut the throat of the other with his penknife; and then treated the ſecond in the ſame inhuman manner that he had done the firſt.

It was within half a mile of the caſtle of Edinburgh that theſe horrid murders were committed; and as the deeds were perpetrated in the middle of the day, and in the open fields, it would have been matter of wonder if the murderer had not been immediately taken into cuſtody.

It happened at the critical juncture that a gentleman was walking on the Caſtle-Hill of Edinburgh

Engraved for The Malefactor's Register.



Vangro delin. *Grainger sculp.*

THO.S HUNTER *a Clergyman, murdering his two* PUPILS *near Edinburgh.*



burgh, who had a tolerably perfect view of what paſſed. Alarmed by the incident, the gentleman called ſome people, who ran with him to the place where the children were laying dead; but by this time the murderer had advanced towards a river, with a view to drown himſelf. Thoſe who purſued, came up with him juſt as he reached the brink of the river; and his perſon being immediately known to them, a meſſenger was inſtantly diſpatched to Mr. and Mrs. Gordon, who were at that moment going to dinner with their friend, to inform them of the horrid deed that had been perpetrated by their chaplain.

It is not in the power of language to deſcribe the effects reſulting from the communication of this dreadful news: the aſtoniſhment of the afflicted father, the agony of the mother's grief, may poſſibly be conceived, though it cannot be painted.

Hunter being now in cuſtody, it is requiſite that we give an account of the proceedings againſt him, and of the puniſhment that followed his crime.

By an old Scottiſh law it was decreed that "if "a murderer ſhould be taken with the blood of "the murdered perſon on his cloaths, he ſhould "be proſecuted in the ſheriffs court, and exe-"cuted within three days after the commiſſion of "the fact." It was not common to execute this ſentence with rigour; but the offender in queſtion had been guilty of crimes of ſo aggravated a nature, that it was not thought proper to remit any thing of the utmoſt ſeverity of the law.

Hereupon the priſoner was committed to goal, and chained down to the floor all night; and on the following day the ſheriff iſſued his precept for

the jury to meet; and in conſequence of their verdict, Hunter was brought to his trial, when he pleaded guilty; and added to the offence he had already committed, the horrid crime of declaring, that he lamented only the not having murdered Mr. Gordon's daughter as well as his ſons.

Hereupon the ſheriff paſſed ſentence on the convict, which was to the following purpoſe: that "on the following day he ſhould be executed on a gibbet erected for that purpoſe on "the ſpot where he had committed the murders; "but that, previous to his execution, his right "hand ſhould be cut off with a hatchet, near the "wriſt; that then he ſhould be drawn up to the "gibbet by a rope, and, when he was dead, "hung in chains between Edinburgh and Leith, "the knife with which he committed the murders being ſtuck through his hand, which "ſhould be advanced over his head, and fixed "therewith to the top of the gibbet."

This criminal was executed, in ſtrict conformity to his ſentence, on the 22d of Auguſt 1700. But Mr. Gordon ſoon afterwards petitioned the ſheriff, that the body might be removed to a more diſtant ſpot, as its hanging on the ſide of the highway through which he frequently paſſed, tended to re-excite his grief for the occaſion that had firſt given riſe to it. This requiſition was immediately complied with, and in a few days the body was removed to the ſkirts of a ſmall village near Edinburgh, named Broughton.

It is equally true and horrid to relate, that, at the place of execution, Hunter cloſed his life with the following ſhocking declaration: "There "is no God—I do not believe there is any—or "if there was, I hold him in defiance."

A few

A few ſerious and important reflections will naturally occur to the mind on peruſing the above melancholy narrative. Mr. Hunter was educated in a manner greatly ſuperior to the vulgar; and he was of a profeſſion that ought to have ſet an example of virtue, inſtead of a pattern of vice: yet neither his education nor profeſſion could actuate as preventive remedies againſt a crime the moſt abhorrent to all the feelings of humanity.

His firſt offence, great as it was, could be conſidered as no other than a prologue to the diſmal tragedy that enſued; a tragedy that was attended with almoſt every poſſible circumſtance of aggravation; for Mr. and Mrs. Gordon had done nothing to him that could tempt him to any thoughts of revenge; and the children were too young to have offended him, even in intention: they ſimply mentioned to their parents a circumſtance that to them appeared ſomewhat extraordinary; and which, Mr. Hunter's character and ſituation conſidered, was indeed of a very extraordinary nature: yet in revenge of this ſuppoſed affront did he reſolve to embrue his hands in the blood of the unoffending innocents.

If we reflect on the conduct of Mr. and Mrs. Gordon in diſcharging the young woman who was guilty of a violation of the laws of decency, and retaining in their family the principal offender, we muſt own that their partiality was ill founded: this, however, muſt be aſcribed to the veneration in which clergymen are univerſally held, and the particular regard that was ſhewn towards them in Scotland at the commencement of the preſent century. Still, however, it is an aggravation of Hunter's crime, who ought to have been grateful in proportion as he was favoured.

It is a ſhocking part of Hunter's ſtory that he was one of a ſociety of abandoned young fellows, who occaſionally aſſembled to ridicule the ſcriptures, and make a mockery of the being and attributes of God! Is it then to be wondered that this wretch fell an example of the exemplary juſtice of Divine Providence? Perhaps a fate no leſs dreadful attended many of his companions: but as their hiſtories have not reached our hands, we can only judge of the conſequences by the enormities of their crimes.

There is ſomething ſo indeſcribably ſhocking in denying the exiſtence of that God "in whom "we live, move, and have our being," that it is amazing any man can be an atheiſt who feels that he did not create himſelf.

From this ſad tale be mortals taught
The wond'rous power of God,
And, fill'd with deep repentance, bow
Beneath his vengeful rod!

The Caſe of JOHN COWLAND, Gentleman, who ſuffered death for ſtabbing Sir ANDREW SLANNING, Baronet.

THE particulars of this affair are ſhort, but intereſting. Sir Andrew Slanning having made a temporary acquaintance with an orange-woman, while in the pit at Drury-Lane play-houſe, retired with her as ſoon as the play was ended, and was followed by Mr. Cowland and ſome other gentlemen. They had gone but a few yards before Mr. Cowland put his arm round the woman's neck; on which Sir Andrew deſired he would deſiſt, as ſhe was his wife. Cowland, knowing

knowing that Sir Andrew was married to a woman of honour, gave him the lie, and ſwords were drawn on both ſides; but ſome gentlemen coming up at this juncture, no immediate ill conſequences enſued.

They all now agreed to adjourn to the Roſe Tavern; and captain Waggett having there uſed his utmoſt endeavours to reconcile the offended parties, it appeared that his mediation was attended with ſucceſs; but, as they were going up ſtairs to drink a glaſs of wine, Mr. Cowland drew his ſword, and ſtabbed Sir Andrew in the belly, who finding himſelf wounded, cried out murder.

Hereupon one of Lord Warwick's ſervants, and two other perſons who were in the houſe, ran up and diſarmed Cowland of his ſword, which was bloody to the depth of five inches, and took him into cuſtody. Cowland now deſired to ſee Sir Andrew, which being granted, he jumped down the ſtairs, and endeavoured to make his eſcape, but being purſued he was eaſily re-taken.

He was inſtantly conducted before a juſtice of the peace, who committed him; and on the 5th of December, 1700, he was tried at the Old Bailey, on three indictments, the firſt at the common law, the ſecond on the ſtatute of ſtabbing, and the third on the coroner's inqueſt for the murder.

The facts above-mentioned were fully proved on the trial; and among other things it was depoſed, that the deceaſed had poſſeſſed an eſtate of 20,000 l. a year, that his family became extinct by his death, and that he had been a gentleman of great good-nature, and by no means diſpoſed to quarrel.

Mr.

Mr. Cowland being found guilty on the cleareſt evidence, received ſentence of death, and though great intereſt was made to obtain a pardon for him, he was executed at Tyburn on the 20th of December, 1700.

From the moment of his impriſonment to the day of his death, his behaviour was truly contrite and penitent; he profeſſed the moſt unfeigned ſorrow for all his ſins, and gave the following account of himſelf: that he was the ſon of reputable parents, who apprenticed him to a goldſmith. That in the early part of life he was ſober and religious, ſtudying the ſcriptures, giving a regular attendance on divine worſhip, and devoutly reflecting on his duty towards God; but that abandoning this courſe of life, he became an eaſy prey to his own intemperate paſſions, and proceeded from one degree of vice to another, till at length he committed the horrid crime for which he was juſtly doomed to fall a ſacrifice to the violated laws of God and his country.

On a retroſpect of the above-written melancholy narrative, ſome reflections will occur, that if properly attended to, may be of ſingular uſe to the reader. The diſpute which coſt Sir Andrew Slanning his life took its riſe from his having aſſociated himſelf with a woman of light character, with whom Cowland thought he had as much right to make free as the baronet: but Sir Andrew was originally to blame; for, as he was a married man, there was a great impropriety in the connection he had formed: this, however, was no kind of juſtification of the conduct of Cowland, who could have no buſineſs to interfere; and his crime is greatly enhanced by his having committed the murder after an apparent reconciliation had taken place. To ſum up our obſer-

obſervations in a few words; from this ſad tale let married men be taught the danger that may enſue from the ſlighteſt criminal connection: and let young gentlemen learn to govern and moderate their paſſions: ſo may all parties live, an honour to themſelves, and a credit to their families and connections!

Singular circumſtances reſpecting the Caſe of Captain JOHN KIDD, with his Life, Piracies, Trial, and Execution.

THE caſe of captain Kidd, while in agitation, engaged the attention of the public in a very eminent degree, though the man himſelf was one of the moſt contemptible of the human race. The town of Greenock in Scotland gave birth to captain Kidd, who was bred to the ſea, and having quitted his native country, he reſided at New-York, where he became owner of a ſmall veſſel, with which he traded among the pirates, obtained a thorough knowledge of their haunts, and could give a better account of them than any other perſon whatever. He was neither remarkable for the exceſs of his courage, nor for his want of it. In a word, his ruling paſſion appeared to be avarice, and to this was owing his connection with the pirates.

When Kidd was in company with theſe abandoned people he uſed to converſe and act as they did; yet at other times he would make ſingular profeſſions of honeſty, and intimate how eaſy a matter it would be to extirpate theſe people, and prevent their making future depredations.

His frequent remarks of this kind engaged the notice of ſeveral conſiderable planters, who forming a more favourable idea of him than his true character would warrant, procured him the patronage with which he was afterwards honoured. Before we enter into farther particulars reſpecting this man, it will be proper to ſay ſomething of the ſituation of public affairs, previous to, and at the time he began to grow conſpicuous.

Great complaints had been made, for years paſt, of the piracies committed in the Weſt-Indies, which had been greatly encouraged by ſome of the inhabitants of North-America, on account of the advantage that could be made by the purchaſe of effects thus fraudulently obtained. This coming to the knowledge of king William the Third, he, in the year 1695, beſtowed the government of New-England and New-York on the earl of Bellamont, an Iriſh nobleman of diſtinguiſhed character and abilities.

Soon after his majeſty had conferred this honour on lord Bellamont, his lordſhip began to conſider of the moſt effectual method to redreſs the evils complained of, and he repreſented to colonel Levingſton, a gentleman who had great property in New-York, that ſome proper ſteps ſhould be taken to obviate the evils ſo long complained of. Juſt at this juncture captain Kidd was arrived from New-York, in a ſloop of his own: him, therefore, the colonel mentioned to lord Bellamont, as a bold and daring man, who was very fit to be employed againſt the pirates, as he was perfectly well acquainted with the places they frequented.

This plan met with the fulleſt approbation of his lordſhip, who knowing how deſirous the king

was

was that this neſt of pirates ſhould be deſtroyed, mentioned the affair to his majeſty, who greatly applauded the deſign, and recommended it to the notice of the board of admiralty. The commiſſioners likewiſe approved it; but ſuch was then the hurry and confuſion of public affairs, that, though the deſign was approved, no ſteps were taken towards carrying it into execution.

All that paſſed on this occaſion being known to colonel Levingſton, he made an application to lord Bellamont, and informed him that as the affair would not well admit of delay, it was worthy (though it had not met with public encouragement) of being undertaken by ſome private perſons of rank and diſtinction, and carried into execution at their own expence.

His lordſhip approved of this project, but it was attended with conſiderable difficulty: at length, however, the lord chancellor Somers, the duke of Shrewſbury, the earl of Romney, the earl of Oxford, and ſome other perſons, with colonel Levingſton and captain Kidd, agreed to raiſe 6000 l. for the expence of the voyage; and the colonel and captain were to have a fifth of the profits of the whole undertaking.

King William approved of this plan ſo highly, and thought it would produce ſuch great advantages to his ſubjects, that he promiſed to contribute to its ſucceſs; and therefore a reſerve was agreed to be made of a tenth part of the effects ſeized from the pirates, for the uſe of his majeſty: but after the contract was concluded, the king could not ſpare his ſhare of the money, and therefore the whole was advanced by the perſons above-mentioned.

Matters being thus far adjuſted, a commiſſion in the uſual form was granted to captain Kidd, to take and ſeize pirates, and bring them to juſtice; but there was no ſpecial clauſe or proviſo to reſtrain his conduct, or regulate the mode of his proceeding. Kidd was known to lord Bellamont, who once introduced him to the earl of Oxford, and another gentleman preſented him to lord Romney. With regard to the other parties concerned, he was wholly unacquainted with them: and ſo ill was this affair conducted, that he had no private inſtructions how to act, but received his ſailing orders from lord Bellamont, the purport of which were, that he ſhould act agreeable to the letter of his commiſſion.

A veſſel was purchaſed and manned, and received the name of the Adventure Galley; and in this captain Kidd ſailed for New-York, towards the cloſe of the year 1695, and in his paſſage made prize of a French ſhip. From New-York he ſailed to the Madeira Iſlands, thence to Bonaviſto and St. Jago, and from this laſt place to Madagaſcar. He now began to cruize at the entrance of the Red Sea, but not being ſucceſsful in thoſe latitudes, he ſailed to Calicut, and there took a ſhip of one hundred and fifty tons burthen, which he carried to Madagaſcar, and there ſold.

His prize being diſpoſed of, he again put to ſea, and at the expiration of five weeks took the Quedah merchant, a ſhip of above four hundred tons burthen, the maſter of which was an Engliſhman, named Wright, who had two Dutch mates on board, and a French gunner, but the crew, near ninety in number, conſiſted of Moors.

This

This ſhip he carried to St. Mary's * near Madagaſcar, where he burnt the Adventure Galley, belonging to his owners, and divided the lading of the Quedah merchant with his crew, taking forty ſhares to himſelf. They then went on board the laſt mentioned ſhip, and ſailed for the Weſt-Indies. It is uncertain whether the inhabitants of the Weſt-India iſlands knew that Kidd was a pirate; but he was refuſed refreſhments at Anguilla and St. Thomas's, and therefore ſailed to Mona, betwixt Porto Rico and Hiſpaniola, where, through the management of an Engliſhman named Bolton, he obtained a ſupply of proviſions from Curaſſoa. He now bought a ſloop of Bolton, in which he ſtowed great part of his ill-gotten effects, and left the Quedah merchant, with eighteen of his ſhip's company, in Bolton's care.

Kidd now ſailed in the ſloop, and touched at ſeveral places, where he diſpoſed of a great part of his cargo, and then ſteered for Boſton in New-England. In the interim Bolton ſold the Quedah merchant to the Spaniards, and immediately ſailed as a paſſenger in a ſhip for Boſton, where he arrived a conſiderable time before Kidd, and gave information to lord Bellamont, then the reſident governor, of what had happened.

On Kidd's arrival, therefore, he was ſeized by order of his lordſhip; when all he had to urge in his defence was, that he thought the Quedah merchant was a lawful prize, as ſhe was manned with Moors; though there was no kind of proof that this veſſel had committed any act of piracy.

* At this place ninety men of Kidd's crew left him, and went on board the Mocha merchant, an Eaſt-India ſhip, which had juſt then commenced pirate.

Hereupon the earl of Bellamont immediately diſpatched an account to England of the circumſtances that had ariſen, and requeſted that a ſhip might be ſent for Kidd, who had committed ſeveral other notorious acts of piracy. On this the ſhip Rocheſter was ſent to bring him to England; but this veſſel, happening to be diſabled, was obliged to return; a circumſtance which greatly encreaſed a public clamour which had for ſome time ſubſiſted reſpecting this buſineſs.

There is not the leaſt doubt but that this clamour took its riſe from party prejudice; yet it was carried to ſuch a height, that the members of parliament for ſeveral places were inſtructed to move the houſe for an enquiry into the affair; and accordingly it was moved in the houſe of commons, that "The letters patent, granted to "the earl of Bellamont and others, reſpecting "the goods taken from pirates, were diſhonour-"able to the king, againſt the law of nations, "contrary to the laws and ſtatutes of this realm, "an invaſion of property, and deſtructive to "commerce." Though a negative was put on this motion, yet the enemies of lord Somers and the earl of Oxford continued to charge thoſe noblemen with giving countenance to pirates; and it was even inſinuated that the earl of Bellamont was not leſs culpable than his aſſociates.

Accordingly another motion was made in the houſe of commons, to addreſs his majeſty, that "Kidd might not be tried till the next ſeſſions of "parliament, and that the earl of Bellamont "might be directed to ſend home all examina-"tions and other papers relative to the affair." This motion was carried, and the king complied with the requeſt.

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On Kidd's arrival in England he was ſent for and examined at the bar of the houſe of commons, with a view to fix part of his guilt on the parties who had been concerned in ſending him on the expedition: but nothing aroſe to criminate any of thoſe diſtinguiſhed perſons. Kidd, who was in ſome degree intoxicated, made a very contemptible appearance at the bar of the houſe; on which a member, who had been one of the moſt earneſt to have him examined, violently exclaimed, "D—n this fellow, I thought he had been "only a knave; but, unfortunately, he happens "to be a fool likewiſe."

At length Kidd was tried at the Old-Bailey, and was convicted on the cleareſt evidence: but neither at that time, nor afterwards, charged any of his employers with being privy to his infamous tranſactions.

Kidd was hanged at Execution-Dock on the 23d day of May 1701; but a circumſtance happened at his execution that will be worthy of recital. After he had been tied up to the gallows, the rope broke, and he fell to the ground; but being immediately tied up again, the ordinary, who had before exhorted him, deſired to ſpeak with him once more; and on this ſecond application, entreated him to make the moſt careful uſe of the few farther moments thus providentially allotted him for the final preparation of his ſoul to meet its important change. Theſe exhortations appeared to have the wiſhed-for effect; and he was left, profeſſing his charity to all the world, and his hopes of ſalvation through the merits of his redeemer.

Thus ended the life of captain Kidd, a man, who, if he had entertained a proper regard to the welfare of the public, or even to his own advantage,

tage, might have become an uſeful member of ſociety, inſtead of a diſgrace to it. The opportunities he had obtained of acquiring a compleat knowledge of the haunts of the pirates, rendered him one of the moſt proper men in the world to have extirpated this neſt of villains; but his own avarice defeated the generous views of ſome of the greateſt and moſt diſtinguiſhed men of the age in which he lived. Hence we may learn the deſtructive nature of avarice, which generally counteracts all its own purpoſes. Captain Kidd might have acquired a fortune, and rendered a capital ſervice to his country, in a point the moſt eſſential to its intereſts; but he appeared to be dead to all thoſe generous ſenſations which do honour to humanity, and materially injured his country, while he was bringing final diſgrace on himſelf.

The ſtory of this wretched malefactor will effectually impreſs on the mind of the reader the truth of the old obſervation, that "Honeſty is "the beſt policy."

Henceforth let honour's paths be trod,
Nor villains ſeek in vain
To mock the ſacred laws of God,
To give their neighbours pain.

Particulars concerning DARBY MULLINS, who ſuffered death at the ſame time and place with Captain Kidd.

THE unfortunate ſubject of this ſhort narrative was born in a village in the north of Ireland, about ſixteen miles from Londonderry.

Having reſided with his father, and followed the buſineſs of huſbandry, till he was about eighteen

eighteen years of age, the old man then died, and the young one went to Dublin; but he had not been long there before he was enticed to go to the Weſt-Indies, where he was ſold to a planter, with whom he reſided four years.

At the expiration of the term above-mentioned he became his own maſter, and thereupon followed the buſineſs of a waterman, in which he ſaved money enough to purchaſe a ſmall veſſel, in which he traded from one iſland to another, till the time of the dreadful earthquake at Jamaica in the year 1691, from the effects of which he was preſerved in a manner almoſt miraculous.

Soon after this he built himſelf a houſe at Kingſton, and having now a wife and family, he opened his new habitation as a punch-houſe, which, in general, is a very profitable buſineſs in that iſland: but it did not prove ſo to Mullins, who thereupon took his paſſage to New-York, where he reſided two years, and then ſailed to the Madeiras, where he remained only three weeks. On his return to New-York he buried his wife, and finding himſelf not in circumſtances to keep houſe any longer, he purchaſed a boat of twenty tons burthen, in which he carried wood for firing from one part of the country to another.

For a while he laboured in this way with ſome ſucceſs; but unhappily falling into company with Kidd, and ſome of his companions, they perſuaded him to engage in their piratical practices; urging that their intention being to rob only the enemies of chriſtianity, the act would be not only lawful but meritorious.

The conſequence of his compliance was, that he was tried at the ſame ſeſſions as Kidd, and being legally convicted, ſuffered death with him at Execution-Dock, on the 23d of May 1701.

From

From the fate of this offender we may learn the ſin and danger of quitting an honeſt employment to engage in a buſineſs of a contrary nature. We likewiſe ſee the fallacy of thoſe ſpecious pretences by which Mullins was prevailed on to embark in one of the vileſt ſpecies of robbery. He was told that it was no crime to plunder an infidel. If he had reflected but a moment, he muſt have been convinced that it was equally contrary to the laws of his country, and the ſpirit of chriſtianity: but, in fact, he did not give himſelf time to reflect; being ſeduced by the bad example of others: ſo true is the apoſtolical obſervation, "Evil com-"munications corrupt good manners."

Singular Caſe of HERMAN STRODTMAN, who was executed for the murder of PETER WOLTER.

THIS offender, who came of a good family, was born at Revel in Liſland, about the year 1683. His parents, who were of a religious diſpoſition, gave him a liberal and pious education.

His father having ſent him to ſchool at Lubeck in the year 1694, he remained there till Michaelmas 1698. At this period he went to Hamburgh, where he continued ſome months, and then, in company with a young countryman of his, named Peter Wolter, embarked for England: and, on their arrival in London, they were both bound apprentices to Meſſieurs Stein and Dorien, merchants and partners.

The young gentlemen lived together in great harmony for a conſiderable time; but in the month of Auguſt preceding the fatal tragedy of which

which we are about to recite the particulars, Mr. Dorien was married to the ſiſter of Peter Wolter.

Hereupon the latter began to aſſume airs of conſequence, and behaved with ſo much inſolence to Strodtman, that his pride took the alarm. They had ſeveral quarrels, and Wolter beat Strodtman twice; at one time in the compting-houſe, and at another before the ſervant-girls in the kitchen. Wolter likewiſe traduced Strodtman to his maſters, who thereupon denied him the liberty and other gratifications that were allowed to his fellow-'prentice. Hereupon Strodtman conceived an implacable hatred againſt him, and reſolved to murder him in ſome way or other. His firſt intention was to have poiſoned him; and with this view he mixed ſome white mercury with a white powder which Wolter uſed to keep in a glaſs in his bed-room, as a remedy for the ſcurvy: but this happening to be done in the midſt of winter, Wolter had declined taking the powder; ſo that the other thought of deſtroying him by the more expeditious method of ſtabbing.

This ſcheme, however, he delayed from time to time, while Wolter's pride and arrogance encreaſed to ſuch a degree, that the other thought he ſhould at length be tempted to murder him in ſight of the family. Hereupon Strodtman deſired one of the maids to intimate to his maſters his inclinations to be ſent to the Weſt-Indies; but no anſwer being given to this requeſt, Strodtman grew ſo uneaſy, and his enmity againſt his fellow-'prentice encreaſed to ſuch a degree, that the Dutch maid, obſerving the agitation of his mind, adviſed him to a patient ſubmiſſion to his ſituation, as the moſt probable method of ſecuring his future peace. Unfortunately he paid no re-

gard to this good advice; but determined on the execution of the fatal plan which afterwards led to his deſtruction.

On the morning of Good-Friday Strodtman was ſent out on buſineſs; but, inſtead of tranſacting it, he went to Greenwich, with an intention of returning on Saturday, to perpetrate the murder; but reflecting that his fellow-'prentice was to receive the ſacrament on Eaſter-Sunday, he abhorred the thought of taking away his life before he had partaken of the Lord's ſupper: wherefore he ſent a letter to his maſters on the Saturday, in which he aſſerted that he had been impreſſed, and was to be ſent to Chatham on Eaſter-Monday, and put on board a ſhip in the royal navy: but while he was at Greenwich he was met by a young gentleman who knew him, and who, returning to London, told Meſſieurs Stein and Dorien, he believed that the ſtory of his being impreſſed was all invention. Hereupon Mr. Stein went to Chatham, to enquire into the real ſtate of the caſe; when he diſcovered that the young gentleman's ſuſpicions were but too well founded.

Strodtman went to the church at Greenwich twice on Eaſter-Sunday, and on the approach of evening came to London, and ſlept at the Dolphin inn, in Biſhopſgate-ſtreet. On the following day he returned to Greenwich, and continued either at that place or at Woolwich and the neighbourhood till Tueſday, when he went to London, lodged in Lombard-ſtreet, and returned to Greenwich on the Wedneſday.

Coming again to London on the evening of the ſucceeding day, he did not return any more to Greenwich, but going to the houſe of his maſters, he told them that what he had written was true,

true, for that he had been been preſſed. They gave no credit to this tale, but told him they had enquired into the affair, and bid him quit their houſe. This he did, and took lodgings in Moorfields, where he lay on that and the following night, and on the Saturday he took other lodgings at the Sun in Queen-ſtreet, London.

Before the preceding Chriſtmas he had procured a key on the model of that belonging to his maſter's houſe, that he might go in and out at his pleaſure. Originally he intended to have made no worſe uſe of this key; but it being ſtill in his poſſeſſion, he let himſelf into the houſe between eight and nine o'clock on the evening of the Saturday laſt mentioned; but hearing the footſteps of ſome perſon going up ſtairs, he concealed himſelf behind the door in the paſſage. As ſoon as the noiſe ariſing from this circumſtance was over, he went up one pair of ſtairs to a room adjoining the compting-houſe, where he uſed to ſleep, and having found a tinder-box, he lighted a candle, and put it into his maſters dark lanthorn, which he carried up ſtairs, to an empty room next to that in which Peter Wolter uſed to lay. Here he continued a ſhort time, when hearing ſomebody coming up ſtairs, he put out his candle, and fell aſleep ſoon afterwards.

Awaking about twelve o'clock he liſtened for a while, and hearing no noiſe, he imagined that the whole family were faſt aſleep. Hereupon he deſcended to the room on the firſt floor, where the tinder-box lay; and having lighted his candle, he went to the compting houſe, and took a ſum of money, and ſeveral notes and bills.

This being done, he took a piece of wood with which they uſed to beat tobacco, and going up ſtairs again, he haſtily entered the room where

Peter Wolter was aſleep, and advancing to his bed-ſide, ſtruck him violently on the head; and though his heart in ſome degree failed him, yet he continued his ſtrokes. As the wounded youth groaned much, he took the pillow, and laying it on his mouth, ſat down on the ſide of the bed, and preſſed it hard with his elbow, till no appearance of life remained.

Perceiving Wolter to be quite dead, he ſearched his cheſt of drawers and pockets, and took as much money as, with what he had taken from his maſters, amounted to above eight pounds. He then packed up ſome linen and woollen cloaths, and going down one pair of ſtairs, he threw his bundle into a houſe that was uninhabited.

He then went up ſtairs again, and having cut his candle, lighted both pieces, one of which he placed in a chair cloſe to the bed-curtains, and the other on a cheſt of drawers, with a view to have ſet the houſe on fire, to conceal the robbery and murder of which he had been guilty. This being done, he went through a window into the houſe where he had thrown his bundle; and in this place he ſtaid till five in the morning, when he took the bundle with him to his lodgings in Queen-ſtreet, where he ſhifted his apparel, and went to the Swediſh church in Trinity-Lane. After the worſhip of the congregation was ended he heard a bill of thanks read which his maſter had ſent, in devout acknowledgment of the narrow eſcape that themſelves and their neighbours had experienced from the fire. Struck by this circumſtance, Strodtman burſt into tears, but he endeavoured as much as poſſible to conceal hi emotion from a gentleman who ſat in the ſame pew with him, and who, on their coming out of the church, informed him that the houſe of

Meſſieurs

Meſſieurs Stein and Dorien narrowly eſcaped being burnt the preceding night, by an accident then unknown; but that the deſtruction was providentially prevented by the Dutch maid ſmelling the fire and ſeeing the ſmoke, ſo that on her alarming her maſter, the flames were extinguiſhed by a pail of water.

Strodtman made an appointment to meet the gentleman who gave him this information, on the outer-walks of the Royal-Exchange, in the afternoon, to go to the Dutch church in the Savoy: but the gentleman not coming to his time, he went alone to Stepney church, and after ſervice was ended, he walked towards Mile-End, where he ſaw the two Dutchmen * who had been hung in chains. This ſight gave him a ſhocking idea of the crime of which he had been guilty, and he reflected that he might ſoon become a like horrid ſpectacle to mankind. Hence he proceeded to Blackwall, where he ſaw the captain of a French pirate hanging in chains, which gave freſh force to the gloomy feelings of his mind, and again taught him to dread a ſimilar fate. After having been thus providentially led to the ſight of objects which he would otherwiſe rather have avoided, he returned to his lodgings in great dejection of mind, but far from repenting, or even being properly ſenſible of the crime he had committed; for, as he himſelf ſaid, "his heart did not yet "relent for what he had done, and if he had fail-"ed of murdering his fellow-'prentice in his bed, "he ſhould have deſtroyed him ſome other way."

On

* Theſe muſt have been Michael Van-Berghen, and his ſervant Dromelius.

On his return to his lodgings he ate his ſupper, ſaid his prayers, and went to bed. On the following morning he went to the White Horſe Inn without Cripplegate, to receive caſh for a bill of twenty pounds which he had ſtolen from his maſters' houſe; but the perſon who was to have paid it being gone out, he was deſired to call again about twelve o'clock. In the interim he went to the houſe of a banker in Lombard-Street, who requeſted him to carry ſome money to his (the banker's) ſiſter, who was at a boarding-ſchool at Greenwich. Strodtman ſaid he could not go till the following day, when he would execute the commiſſion: but before he left the houſe the banker told him that a young man, named Green, had been to enquire for him; on which Strodtman ſaid that if Mr. Green returned, he ſhould be informed that he would come back at one o'clock. Hence he went again to the White Horſe Inn, where he found the party, who told him that he had no orders to pay the money for the bill.

Having received this anſwer, he went to his lodgings, where he dined, and then went to the banker's in Lombard-Street, where his maſter Stein, with Mr. Green and another gentleman, were waiting for him. Mr. Stein aſked him if he would go willingly to his houſe, or be carried thither by porters: and he replied, that he would go of his own accord. When he came there he was aſked ſome queſtions reſpecting the atrocious crimes of which he had been guilty: but perſiſting that he was innocent, he was ſearched, and the 20 l. bill found in his poſſeſſion. They then enquired where he lodged; to which he anſwered in Moorfields; whereupon they all went thither

together; but the people denied his lodging there at that time.

Mr. Stein, finding him unwilling to ſpeak the truth, told him that if he would make a full diſcovery, he ſhould be ſent abroad, out of the reach of juſtice. Hereupon he mentioned his real lodgings; on which they went thither in a coach, and finding the bills and other ſtolen effects, Strodtman was carried before Sir Humphry Edwin, who committed him to Newgate, on his own confeſſion.

He was not tried at the firſt ſeſſions after his commitment, and in the interval that he lay in priſon ſome bad people who were confined there trumped up an idle tale for him to tell when he came to trial, and prevailed on him to plead not guilty; a circumſtance which he afterwards ſincerely repented of. On his trial, however, there were ſo many corroborative proofs of his guilt, that the jury could not heſitate to convict him, and he received the ſentence awarded by law.

While he was under ſentence of death his behaviour was remarkably contrite and penitent; and when the ordinary of Newgate acquainted him that the warrant for his execution was come down, and that he would ſuffer in a few days, he ſaid, "The Lord's will be done! I am willing to die, only I beg of God that I may not, (as I deſerve) die an eternal death; and that though I die here, for my moſt heinous and enormous crimes, yet I may, for the love of Chriſt, live eternally with him in heaven:" to which he added, "God bleſs the king, and all my honourable judges: they have done me no wrong; but 'tis I have done great wrong. The Lord be merciful to me, a great ſinner, elſe I periſh."

At

At times he ſeemed to deſpair, becauſe he feared that his repentance was not equal to his guilt; but then again his mind was occaſionally warmed with the hope that his penitence was ſuch as would lead to ſalvation.

When at the place of execution he acknowledged his crime, for which he profeſſed the ſincereſt ſorrow and repentance: he begged pardon of God for having endeavoured, with preſumptuous lies, to conceal thoſe crimes, which being puniſhed in this world, his eternal puniſhment in the next might be avoided. He died full of contrition, penitence, and hope; and ſuffered at Tyburn on the 18th of June, 1701; and it was remarked that he kept his hands lifted up for a conſiderable time after the cart was drawn away.

There are ſome very remarkable circumſtances in the caſe of Herman Strodtman, which are well worthy of obſervation. The prudence of the Dutch maid, who, when ſhe obſerved the agitation of his mind, adviſed him to bear preſent evils with reſolution, in the hope of future peace. The doctrine inculcated by this honeſt girl ought not to be deſpiſed even by the wiſeſt of men.

Strodtman's reſolution not to murder Wolter till he had received the ſacrament has ſomething ſhockingly ſtriking in it. We are at once charmed and amazed at the influence religion has on the mind. A man is determined to commit murder, but will defer the fatal ſtroke till he thinks the ſoul of his adverſary is properly prepared for eternity! Hence let parents be taught the neceſſity of impreſſing the precepts of religion on the minds of their children. Even a man in the reſolution of deliberate murder could not forget that there is a God to reward the pious as well as puniſh the wicked.

Strodt-

Strodtman's maſter, Stein, going to Chatham, to enquire if he had been really impreſſed, and finding that he had not, is a good leſſon againſt the ſin of lying. Nothing is ſo eaſy as the detection of a lyar; nothing more ſcandalous than the being liable to ſuch detection.

Strodtman's going to church repeatedly, before and after the commiſſion of the murder, are very ſtriking circumſtances, and combine with thoſe above-mentioned to prove that it is impoſſible to root from the mind that regard for religion which ſhould be planted in the years of infancy.

His intention to ſet the houſe on fire, in order to conceal the robbery and murder, paints his character in the worſt light. The incendiary is one of the moſt culpable of all offenders. It is a great misfortune that perſons who are guilty of writing incendiary letters are ſeldom detected; but it would be a ſtill greater misfortune to this country, if perſons of property were to be terrified to a compliance by the threats uſually denounced in ſuch letters. Guilt is always cowardly, and ſeldom carries its own threats into execution. It is, however, to be hoped that the legiſlature of this country will ordain a law, that incendiaries ſhall be puniſhed agreeable to the *lex talionis* of the Romans, or the ſcripture rule, "An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth."

By Strodtman's going to receive the money for the bill of twenty pounds, he took the readieſt method to convict himſelf; for he might have been certain that when the bill was miſſed, payment would be ſtopped: but thus it happens, in almoſt every inſtance, that villainy defeats its own ends.

From the whole of this malefactor's caſe we may learn that the direct road to happineſs is through the path of integrity; and that the indulgence of violent paſſions, whatever the provocation may be, is equally inconſiſtent with the laws of reaſon, and the doctrines of chriſtianity.

The Life, Amours, and Execution of MARY ADAMS, who ſuffered for privately ſtealing.

THIS young woman, who was the daughter of a journeyman ſhoemaker, was born at Reading in Berkſhire, and when ſhe was old enough to go to ſervice went to live with a grocer in that town. As Mary was a girl of vivacity and genteel figure, ſhe ſoon attracted the regard of the grocer's ſon, and the conſequence of their connection became very conſpicuous in a ſhort time.

As ſoon as it was evident that ſhe was pregnant, ſhe was diſmiſſed from her maſter's ſervice, on which ſhe immediately made oath that his ſon was the father of the child thereafter to be born; a circumſtance that compelled the old gentleman to ſupport her till after ſhe was brought to bed.

She had not been delivered long, before ſhe went to London, and entered into the ſervice of a mercer in Cheapſide, where, by prudent conduct, ſhe might have retrieved the character ſhe had forfeited in the country; but prudence was not among the number of her virtues: for though ſhe had already ſuffered for her indiſcretion, an intimacy ſoon ſubſiſted between her maſter and herſelf; but as their aſſociations could not conveniently be held at home, they contrived to meet

meet on evenings at other places, when the miſtreſs of the houſe was gone to the theatre, or out on a viſit.

This connection continued till the girl was far advanced in her pregnancy; when the maſter, apprehenſive of diſagreeable conſequences at home, adviſed the girl to quarrel with her miſtreſs, in order that ſhe might be diſmiſſed, and then took a lodging for her at Hackney, where ſhe remained till ſhe was delivered; and in the mean time the connection between her and her maſter continued as before. Being brought to bed of a child that died in a few hours after its birth, the maſter thought himſelf happy, ſuppoſing he could eaſily free himſelf from the incumbrance of the mother, of whom he now began to be heartily tired.

When the girl recovered from her lying-in, he told her that ſhe muſt go to ſervice, as it did not ſuit him to maintain her any longer: but this enraged her to the higheſt degree, and ſhe threatened to diſcover the nature of their connection to his wife, unleſs he would make her a preſent of twenty guineas; and with this demand he thought it prudent to comply, happy to get rid of her even on ſuch terms.

Being now in poſſeſſion of money, and in no want of cloaths in which to make a genteel appearance, ſhe removed from Hackney to Wych-Street, without Temple-Bar; but was ſcarcely ſettled in her new lodgings before ſhe ſent a letter to the mercer's wife, whom ſhe acquainted with the nature of the connection that had ſubſiſted between her late maſter and herſelf, but ſhe did not mention her place of abode in this letter.

The conſequence was that the mercer was obliged to acknowledge the crime of which he had

been guilty, and ſolicit his wife's pardon, in terms of the utmoſt humiliation. This pardon was promiſed, but whether it was ever ratified remains a doubt.

Mrs. Adams had the advantage of an engaging figure, and paſſing as a young widow in her new lodgings, ſhe was ſoon married to a young fellow in the neighbourhood: but it was not long before he diſcovered the impoſition that had been put on him, on which he embarked on board a ſhip in the royal navy.

By this time Mrs. Adams's money was almoſt expended; but as her cloaths were yet good, an attorney of Clement's-Inn took her into keeping; and after ſhe had lived a ſhort time with him, ſhe went to another of the ſame profeſſion, with whom ſhe cohabited above two years; but on his marriage ſhe was once more abandoned to ſeek her fortune.

Fertile of invention, and too proud to condeſcend to accept of a common ſervice, ſhe became connected with a notorious bawd of Drury-Lane, who was very glad of her aſſiſtance, and promiſed herſelf conſiderable advantages from the aſſociation. In this ſituation Mrs. Adams diſplayed her charms to conſiderable advantage, and was as happy as any common proſtitute can expect to be: but alas! what is this happineſs but a prelude to the extremity of miſery and diſtreſs? Such indeed it was found by Mrs. Adams, who having been gratified by a gentleman with a conſiderable ſum of money, the bawd quarrelled with her reſpecting the dividing of it, and a battle enſuing, our heroine was turned out of the houſe, after ſhe had got a black eye in the conteſt.

After this ſhe uſed to parade the Park in the day-time, and walk the ſtreets in the evening, in ſearch

ſearch of caſual lovers; but as ſhe joined the practice of theft to that of incontinence, few of her chance acquaintance eſcaped being robbed. She was often taken into cuſtody for theſe practices, but continually eſcaped, through defect of evidence.

At length an end was put to her depredations; for having enticed a gentleman to a bagnio near Covent-garden, ſhe picked his pockets of all his money, and a bank note to a large amount, and left him while he was aſleep. When the gentleman awaked he ſent immediate notice to the bank to ſtop payment; and as Mrs. Adams came ſoon afterwards to receive the money for the note, ſhe was taken into cuſtody, and lodged in priſon; and being in a ſhort time tried at the Old Bailey, ſhe was convicted, received ſentence of death, and was executed at Tyburn, on the 16th of June 1702.

After her conviction ſhe lived in the ſame gay and diſſipated manner that ſhe had done before, and was viſited by many of her former acquaintance, who ſupplied her with money to ſupport her extravagance. Agreeable to her own requeſt too, their miſtaken bounty contributed to purchaſe her a ſuit of mourning, in which ſhe was executed; and they buried her in as handſome a manner as if her life had been conducted by the rules of virtue, and ſhe had likewiſe been a woman of fortune.

The reflections naturally ariſing from this caſe, are ſuch as we hope may prove ſerviceable to our readers of both ſexes.—This young woman ſubmitting to be debauched by her maſter's ſon, at Reading, laid the foundation of her ruin. Hence girls of her rank of life ſhould be taught never to yield to unlawful ſolicitations; for when men

above

above their own ſphere pay addreſſes to them, it may reaſonably be ſuppoſed that honourable marriage is not intended; and girls ſhould always deſpiſe addreſſes of every other kind, and ſhun the deluder as they would a peſtilence.

When Mary Adams got a reputable ſervice in London, ſhe had a fair opportunity of recovering her character; and the moment her maſter attempted to have ſeduced her, ſhe ought to have quitted her place. Her meanneſs afterwards, in threatening to diſcover to her miſtreſs the nature of the connection between her maſter and herſelf, in order to extort twenty guineas from him; and her actually doing this after ſhe had received the money, ſufficiently marks the profligacy of her mind!

The figure the mercer made in begging pardon of his wife, for his connection with the girl, paints, in a ſtriking light, the meanneſs to which a man is liable to condeſcend who violates the ſacred laws of marriage.

The reſt of Mrs. Adams's life carries its own leſſon with it. The kept miſtreſs, on the ſlighteſt change in the inclination of her keeper, is liable to deſcend to the rank of a common woman of the town: the common women are almoſt all of them thieves; and theft naturally leads to the gallows.

The young fellow who firſt debauched this girl, at Reading, muſt have felt great uneaſineſs at hearing that ſhe brought herſelf to an ignominious end, in a great meaſure through his originally ſeducing her. But for that firſt misfortune, ſhe might have lived an honeſt wife to a countryman of her own rank, and avoided the diſgrace of a ſhameful exit at Tyburn.

The

The man who thinks of ſeducing a poor girl, ſhould reflect that, beſides the ruin of her, he involves her unhappy parents and friends in all the bitterneſs of woe! From this melancholly tale then, let our men and maids be taught that ſtolen pleaſures, though tempting to their irregular paſſions, are followed by a ſeries of bad conſequences, and end in fruitleſs repentance, and aggravated deſpair! Let them alſo learn to honour the married ſtate; for "Marriage is honourable, "and the bed undefiled."

Hail wedded Love!
Myſterious Law! True ſource of human Offſpring!
By thee adulterous Luſt was driven from Men,
Among the beſtial Herds to range: by thee,
Founded in Reaſon, loyal, juſt, and pure,
Relations dear, and all the Charities
Of Father, Son, and Brother firſt were known.

MILTON.

Narrative of the Caſe of THOMAS ESTRICK, who was executed for houſe-breaking.

THOMAS Eſtrick was born in the Borough of Southwark, in the year 1676. His father was a currier, and inſtructed him in his own buſineſs; but the boy ſhewed a very early attachment to pleaſures and gratifications above his age, and incompatible with his ſituation.

When the time of his apprenticeſhip was expired, he was of too unſettled a diſpoſition to follow his buſineſs, and therefore engaged in the ſervice

vice of a gentleman of fortune, at Hackney: but he had not been long in his new place, before his maſter was robbed of plate, and other valuable effects, to the amount of above eighty pounds.

The fact was that Eſtrick had ſtolen theſe effects; but ſuch was the aſcendancy that he had obtained over his maſter, and ſuch the baſeneſs of his own diſpoſition, that he had art enough to impute the crime to one of the ſervant maids, who was turned out of the houſe, with every circumſtance of unmerited diſgrace.

Eſtrick having quitted this ſervice, took a ſhop in Cock-Alley, near Cripplegate church, where he carried on the buſineſs to which he was bred; and while in this ſtation courted a girl of reputation, to whom he was ſoon afterwards married. It ſhould be remarked that he had been inſtigated to rob his maſter, at Hackney, by ſome young fellows of a profligate diſpoſition; and he had not been married more than half a year, when theſe diſſolute companions threatened to give him up to juſtice if he refuſed to bribe them to keep the ſecret.

Eſtrick, terrified at the thought of a proſecution, gave them his note of hand for the ſum they demanded; but when the note became due he was unable to pay it; on which he was arreſted, and lay ſome time in priſon; but at length obtained his liberty in defect of the proſecution of the ſuit.

As ſoon as he was at large he went to lodge with a perſon who kept his former houſe in Cock-Alley; but on taking poſſeſſion of his lodgings, he found that a woman who had lodged and died in the room during his abſence, had left a box, containing caſh to the amount of about ninety pounds.

Having

Having poſſeſſed himſelf of this ſum, he opened a ſhop in Long-Alley, Moorfields; but his old aſſociates having propagated a report to the prejudice of his character, he thought he ſhould not be ſafe in that ſituation; and therefore took ſhipping for Holland, having previouſly diſpoſed of his effects. On his arrival in Holland he found no opportunity of employing his little money to any advantage; and therefore he ſpent the greater part of it, and then returned to his native country.

It was not long after his return before he found himſelf reduced to great diſtreſs; on which he had recourſe to a variety of illegal methods to ſupply his neceſſities. He was guilty of privately ſtealing, was a houſe-breaker, a ſtreet-robber, and a highwayman. In a ſhort time, however, the career of his wickedneſs was at an end. He was apprehended, tried, and convicted; and in conſequence thereof was executed at Tyburn, on the 10th of March 1703, before he had attained the full age of twenty-ſeven years.

From the particular circumſtances which contributed to bring this offender to juſtice, the ill effects of keeping bad company may be learnt. If he had not aſſociated with young fellows of bad character he would not have been reduced to the neceſſity of giving his note of hand, which carried him to a priſon, and conſequently threw him out of buſineſs when he ſeemed diſpoſed to have got an honeſt living. The ſame unhappy connection likewiſe obliged him to depart for Holland, after he was a ſecond time ſettled; and theſe circumſtances, in fact, contributed to his final diſgrace and deſtruction. Hence let youth in general be taught to " avoid every appearance

" of evil," and to remember that text of ſcripture, " If ſinners entice thee, conſent thou not."

Important particulars reſpecting JOHN PETER DRAMATTI, who was hanged for the Murder of his Wife.

THE unhappy ſubject of this narrative was the ſon of Proteſtant parents, and born at Saverdun, in the county of Foix, and province of Languedoc, in France. He received a religious education; and when he arrived at years of maturity he left his own country on account of the perſecution then prevailing there, and went to Geneva.

From thence he travelled into Germany, and ſerved as a horſe-grenadier under the elector of Brandenburgh, who was afterwards king of Pruſſia. When he had been in this ſphere of life about a year, he came over to England, and entered into the ſervice of lord Haverſham, with whom he remained about twelve months, and then enliſted as a ſoldier in the regiment of colonel De la Meloniere; and having made two campaigns in Flanders, the regiment was ordered into Ireland, where it was broke, in conſequence of which Dramatti obtained his liberty. He now became acquainted with a widow, between fifty and ſixty years of age, who pretending ſhe was a great fortune, and allied to the royal family of France, he ſoon married her, on account of her ſuppoſed wealth and rank, and her underſtanding Engliſh and Iriſh, thinking it prudent to have a wife who could ſpeak the languages of the coun-

try in which he propoſed to ſpend the remainder of his life.

He had not been long married before he found he had been impoſed upon, for his wife had no fortune at all; on which he took a ſmall houſe and a piece of ground, about ten miles from Cork, intending to turn farmer: but being altogether ignorant of huſbandry, he found it impoſſible to ſubſiſt by that profeſſion, on which he went to Cork, and worked as a ſkinner, being the trade to which he was brought up. At the expiration of a twelvemonth from his coming to that city, he went to London, and offering his ſervice again to lord Haverſham, he was accepted, and in this ſervice he remained till the perpetration of the crime which brought him to a ſhameful end.

The ſubſtance of the narrative that Dramatti gave of the cauſe and conſequence of the murder was as follows. His wife, unhappy on account of their ſeparate reſidence, wiſhed to live with him at lord Haverſham's, which he refuſed to conſent to, ſaying that his lordſhip did not know he was married. Hereupon ſhe entreated him to quit his ſervice, which he likewiſe refuſed; ſaying that he could not provide for himſelf ſo well in any other ſituation, and that it would be ungenerous to leave ſo indulgent a maſter.

The wife now began to evince the jealouſy of her diſpoſition; and intimated that Dramatti had fixed his affections on ſome other woman: and the following circumſtance aggravated the malignant diſorder that rankled in her mind,

Dramatti being attacked by a violent fever about the Chriſtmas preceding the time that the murder was committed, his noble maſter gave orders that all poſſible care ſhould be taken of

him at his lordſhip's expence. At this period Mrs. Dramatti paid a viſit to her huſband, and again urged him to quit his ſervice, which he poſitively refuſed. A ſervant girl now came into the room, bringing him ſome water gruel; and the wife ſuſpecting that this was her rival in her huſband's affections, once more entreated him to leave his place; in anſwer to which he ſaid he muſt be out of his ſenſes to abandon a ſituation in which he was ſo well provided for, and treated with ſuch humanity.

Dramatti having recovered of his illneſs, viſited his wife at her lodgings as often as was conſiſtent with the duties of his ſtation; but this not being ſo often as ſhe wiſhed him to come, ſhe grew more uneaſy than before. At length lord Haverſham took lodgings at Kenſington, and Dramatti was ſo buſy in packing up ſome articles on the occaſion, that he had no opportunity of acquainting his wife with their removal. At length ſhe learnt this circumſtance from another quarter; on which, enflamed to the higheſt degree of rage, ſhe went to Kenſington, to reproach her huſband with his unkindneſs to her, though he declared he always maintained her as well as he was able, and as a proof of it had given her three guineas but a little time before the murder was committed.

Frequent were the diſputes between this unhappy man and his wife, till, on the 9th of June, Dramatti being ſent to London, and his buſineſs lying near Soho, he called on his wife, who lodged in that neighbourhood, and having been with her ſome time, he was about to take his leave, but ſhe laid hold of him and wanted to detain him: but he got from her, and went towards Charing-Croſs, to which place ſhe followed him;

but

but at length ſhe ſeemed to yield to his perſuaſions that ſhe would go home, as he told her he was going to his lord in Spring-Gardens; but inſtead of going home, ſhe went and waited for him at, or near, Hyde-Park-gate, and in the evening he found her there as he was going to Kenſington. At the Park-gate, ſhe ſtopped him and inſiſted that he ſhould go no farther unleſs he took her with him; and after many words had paſſed between them, ſhe ſaid ſhe would go in ſpite of his teeth, or elſe ſhe would have his life, or he ſhould have hers. He now left her and went towards Chelſea: but ſhe followed him till they came near Bloody-Bridge, where the quarrel being vehemently renewed, ſhe ſeized his neckcloth, and would have ſtrangled him; whereupon he beat her moſt unmercifully both with his cane and ſword, which latter he imagined ſhe broke with her hands, as ſhe was remarkable for her ſtrength, and, if he had been unarmed, could have eaſily overpowered him.

Having wounded her in ſo many places as to conclude that he had killed her, his paſſion immediately began to ſubſide, and falling on his knees, he devoutly implored the pardon of God for the horrid ſin of which he had been guilty, and then went to Kenſington, where his fellow-ſervants obſerving that his cloaths were bloody, he ſaid that he had been attacked by two men in Hyde-Park, who would have robbed him of his cloaths; but that he defended himſelf, and broke the head of one of them.

This ſtory was credited for the preſent, and on the following day Dramatti went to London, where he heard a paper cried in the ſtreets reſpecting the murder that had been committed; and though he dreaded being taken into cuſtody every moment,

moment, yet he did not ſeek to make his eſcape; but diſpatched his buſineſs in London, and returned to Kenſington.

On the following day the ſervants heard a paper cried, reſpecting a barbarous murder that had been committed near Bloody-Bridge; on which they told their lord of it, hinting that they ſuſpected Dramatti to have murdered his wife, as they had been known to quarrel before, and he came home the preceding evening with his ſword broke, the hilt of it bruiſed, his cane ſhattered, and ſome blood on his cloaths.

Upon this lord Haverſham, with a view to employ him, that he might not think he was ſuſpected, bid him get the coach ready, and in the interim ſent for a conſtable, who, on ſearching him, found a woman's cap in his pocket, which afterwards proved to have belonged to his wife.

When he was examined before a juſtice of peace, he confeſſed that he had committed the crime; but, in extenuation of it, ſaid that his wife was a worthleſs woman who had entrapped him into marriage, by pretending to be of the blood-royal of France, and a woman of fortune.

On his trial it appeared that he went into lord Haverſham's chamber late on the night on which the murder was committed, after that nobleman was in bed; and it was ſuppoſed that he had an intention of robbing his lordſhip, who called out to know what he wanted. But in a ſolemn declaration Dramatti made after his conviction, he ſtedfaſtly denied all intention of robbing his maſter, but only went into the room to fetch a ſilver tumbler, which he had forgot, that he might have it in readineſs to take in ſome aſſes milk in the morning, for his lordſhip.

The

The body of Mrs. Dramatti was found in a ditch between Hyde-Park and Chelſea, and a track of blood was ſeen to the diſtance of twenty yards, at the end of which a piece of a ſword was found ſticking in a bank, which fitted the other part of the ſword in the priſoner's poſſeſſion.

The circumſtances attending the murder being proved to the ſatisfaction of the jury, the culprit was found guilty, condemned, and, on the 21ſt of July, 1703, was executed at Tyburn, and yielded up his life a ſincere penitent, not only with reſpect to the crime for which he ſuffered, but for all others of which he had been guilty.

From the above melancholy narrative the reader is taught to ſhun the vice of lying, and to dread jealouſy as the moſt baneful of all the diſorders of the mind. The two cauſes that contributed to the untimely death of this unhappy couple were thoſe above-mentioned: by a lye the woman ſeduced Dramatti to marry, and by her ill-founded jealouſy, and ungovernable paſſion conſequent thereon, provoked him to murder.

Though nothing can be urged in extenuation of a crime of ſo black a die as murder, yet one can hardly help pitying a man who has been inſtigated to the commiſſion of it, by a vile deception in the firſt inſtance, and ungovernable paſſions in the ſecond. Our younger readers will do well to recollect the following lines of the pious Dr. Watts,

O 'tis a lovely thing for youth
To walk betimes in wiſdom's way;
To fear a lye, to ſpeak the truth,
That we may truſt to all they ſay.

Thoſe in the married ſtate who peruſe this ſtory will be particularly ſtruck with the following words of the immortal Shakeſpear,

The *Jealous* are the *Damn'd*;

for ſurely nothing can approach ſo nearly to the torments we ſuppoſe unhappy ſpirits to endure in a future ſtate, as the pangs of jealouſy, perpetually corroding the mind, and rendering the unhappy ſubjects of it conſtantly uneaſy with themſelves, and objects at once of the pity and deriſion of others.

A Narrative of the Life, Conviction and Execution of THOMAS COOK, who ſuffered for the Murder of JOHN COOPER, a Conſtable, in May-Fair.

THOMAS Cook was the ſon of a butcher, a man of reputation, at Glouceſter: when he was about fifteen years of age his father put him apprentice to a barber-ſurgeon, in London, with whom he lived two years, and then running away, engaged in the ſervice of —— Needham, eſquire, who was page of honour to king William the third: but his mother writing to him, and intimating, in the vulgar phraſe, that "a gentle-"man's ſervice was no inheritance," he quitted his place, and going to Glouceſter, engaged in the buſineſs of a butcher, being the profeſſion of ſeveral of his anceſtors. He followed this trade for ſome time, and ſerved maſter of the company of butchers in his native city; after which he abandoned that buſineſs, and took an inn; but it does

does not appear that he was ſucceſsful in it, ſince he ſoon afterwards turned grazier.

Reſtleſs, however, in every ſtation of life, he repaired to London, where he commenced prize-fighter, at May-Fair, a circumſtance which led to the unhappy cataſtrophe, the particulars of which we are about to relate.

At the period of which we are writing, May-Fair was a place greatly frequented by prize-fighters, thieves, and women of bad character. Here puppet-ſhews were exhibited, and hither reſorted all thoſe vagabonds of every kind that are a diſgrace to any neighbourhood. At length the nuiſance encreaſed to ſuch a degree that queen Anne iſſued her proclamation for the ſuppreſſion of vice and immorality, with a particular view to this fair; in conſequence of which the juſtices of the peace iſſued their warrant to the high conſtable, who ſummoned all the inferior conſtables to his aſſiſtance.

The conſtables going to ſuppreſs the fair, Cook, with a mob of about thirty, ſoldiers and other perſons, ſtood in defiance of the peace-officers, at whom they threw brickbats, by which ſome of the latter were wounded.

Cooper, the conſtable, being active to ſuppreſs the rioters, Cook drew his ſword and ſtabbed him in the belly, and he died of the wound at the expiration of four days. Hereupon Cook fled to Ireland, and (as it was depoſed upon his trial) while he was in a public-houſe there, he ſwore in a profane manner, for which the landlord cenſured him, and told him there were perſons in the houſe who would take him into cuſtody for it; to which he anſwered, "Are there "any of the informing dogs in Ireland? We in

" London drive them; for at a fair called May-
" Fair, there was a noiſe which I went out to
" ſee:—there were ſix ſoldiers and myſelf;—the
" conſtables played their parts with their ſtaves,
" and I played mine; and when the man drop-
" ped, I wiped my ſword, put it up, and went
" away."

Cook having repeatedly talked in this boaſting and inſolent manner, he was at length taken into cuſtody, and ſent to Cheſter, whence he was removed by a writ of habeas corpus to London; and being tried at the Old Bailey, was convicted, received ſentence of death, and was ordered for execution on the 21ſt of July, 1703.

After conviction he ſolemnly denied the crime for which he had been condemned; declaring that he had no ſword in his hand on the day the conſtable was killed, and was not in the compa-ny of thoſe who killed him. How far he was to be credited in this aſſertion, or what could induce him to make it, if it was not true, it is impoſſible to ſay; but this declaration is the more extraor-dinary, as he acknowledged all his other crimes without heſitation.

Having received the ſacrament on the 21ſt of July abovementioned, he was taken from New-gate to be carried to Tyburn; but when he was got to High-Holborn, oppoſite Bloomſbury, a reprieve arrived for him till the following Fri-day. When he came back to Newgate he was viſited by numbers of his acquaintance, who would have rejoiced with him on his narrow eſcape; but he declined all company, except that of thoſe who would aſſiſt him in his devo-tions.

On the Friday that he was to have been exe-cuted he received another reſpite till the 11th of Auguſt,

Auguſt, when he underwent the ſevereſt rigour of the law, with the greateſt penitence and reſignation.

Such is the hiſtory of the fate of this man, who ſeems to have fallen a ſacrifice to the low paſſion he had imbibed for the life of a prize-fighter; for he uſed to make it his boaſt that there was not a more courageous man than himſelf in the world. To the credit of the preſent age, the practice of prize-fighting is aboliſhed:—the bear-gardens are no more:—the juſtices of the peace have done much towards ſuppreſſing the fairs in the villages in the neighbourhood of London:—the duration of Bartholomew-fair is abridged from near three weeks, to three days. Theſe are great and important regulations; and it is to be hoped that the work of reformation will go forward till it is abſolutely compleat, that the riſing generation may be protected from thoſe evils to which they are liable at all theſe places of irregular meeting.

May the fate of this malefactor have its proper effect, in teaching youth to refrain from evil company, and to aſſociate only with thoſe by whoſe inſtructions they may grow wiſer and better!

The following is a copy of verſes written by Cook, and ſung by him at the place of execution; which we inſert, not for the ſake of the poetry, but as a ſpecimen of the devotion of his mind.

I Hope my death will warning give,
To all that here attend,
And by my ſad example may,
Your lives learn to amend.
Amend your lives, young men I pray,
And do no more offend,

That great and mighty God above,
Whoſe kingdom has no end.
He's a God that merciful is,
To all that do believe
In Jeſus Chriſt his only ſon,
Who will our ſins forgive.
Pray do repent of all your ſins,
Before it is too late;
And beg the help of God above,
For Jeſus Chriſt his ſake:
Who ſuffered death upon the croſs,
To make a recompence,
To all that do in him believe,
Before he did go hence.
In him I do put all my truſt,
Whoſe mercy is full ſure,
Hoping my ſoul with him ſhall dwell,
Henceforth for evermore. Amen.

" This I writ as my laſt farewell;
" Hoping my ſoul with Chriſt ſhall dwell." Amen.

THOMAS COOK.

Short Narrative of the Caſe of GERALD FITZ-GERALD, who was hanged for Murder.

GERALD FITZGERALD was the ſon of a capital farmer near Limerick, in Ireland, where he was born in the year 1671, and educated in the proteſtant religion, his father being of that perſuaſion.

At the age of fifteen he came to London, to learn the art of peruke-making, under a relation of his Father's: but ſoon aſſociating himſelf with bad

bad company, he ran away from his kinſman at the expiration of three years, and entered into the ſervice of Sir Henry Johnſon; and had the direction of the domeſtic affairs of his new maſter. However, he had not been long in this ſervice when his old aſſociates perſuaded him to leave it, on which he entered on board a man of war, and was ſoon advanced to the ſtation of ſteward to the captain.

He made ſome voyages to the Eaſt and Weſt Indies, and on his return to England was married to a relation of the captain, a young lady whoſe ſingular good qualities were admirably calculated to give happineſs to any man who had poſſeſſed wiſdom ſufficient to have known in what true happineſs conſiſted.

He had not been married many months before he went out as purſer to a man of war bound to the Eaſt Indies; but this ſhip being loſt on the coaſt of China, he returned to England in a merchantman, and afterwards ſailed as a purſer in a ſhip of war, which took ſome prizes, of which Fitz-Gerald received his ſhare.

Being again in London, he began to grow neglectful of his wife, engaged in the vices of the town, kept the worſt company, and frequented houſes of ill fame. In one of theſe he quarreled with a gentleman, named Pix, reſpecting a woman of the town, and a violent contention ariſing, Fitz-Gerald killed the other on the ſpot with his ſword.

For this offence he was tried at the Old Bailey, and being convicted on full evidence, he was hanged at Tyburn, on the 22d of December, 1703, dying a ſincere penitent for his crimes, which, though aggravated in their nature, had been but of ſhort continuance.

The

The fate of Fitz-Gerald ſhould afford a leſſon of caution to youth in general never to aſſociate with women of abandoned characters; and, in particular, this reſolution ought to be impreſſed on the minds of married men. This unhappy malefactor was united in wedlock with a young lady, whoſe relation to him demanded his protection, and whoſe ſuperior virtues had every claim to his tendereſt regard: yet, in a raſh quarrel about a woman of the town, could he murder his friend, make his relations wretched, and bring deſtruction on his own head.

Fitz-Gerald had been educated in a ſtrict regard to the duties of religion; but this wore off by his being a conſtant witneſs of that diſſoluteneſs of manners which too frequently prevails on board our ſhips, where it often happens that no chaplain attends to perform that duty for the diſcharge of which he is paid out of the wages of the ſeamen: a ſhameful abuſe, which calls for redreſs from thoſe whoſe ſtation includes the ſuperintendance of naval affairs!

Relation of the fate of THOMAS SHARP, who was hanged at the end of Long-Acre, for murdering a Watchman.

THIS offender was born in the city of Exeter, in the year 1674, and when he was advanced to man's eſtate, he enliſted for a ſoldier, and having ſerved abroad for ſome time, the regiment he belonged to was ordered to England, when Sharp ſoon deſerting from it, commenced houſebreaker, in company of a ſet of vile and abandoned miſcreants, who at that time com-

committed the moſt horrid depredations in the neighbourhood of London and Weſtminſter.

Sharp having committed a burglary in the houſe of Mrs. Brown of St. Giles's, was ſoon afterwards taken into cuſtody, and being tried and convicted of the fact, ſentence of death was paſſed on him; but he was afterwards pardoned, on the condition of again entering into the regiment from which he had deſerted.

Such, however, was the force of that habit of vice which he had acquired, that it was not long before he again deſerted, and returned to his former practices, which he carried to ſuch a height, that a week ſeldom paſſed in which he was not concerned in breaking open ſeveral houſes: and this dangerous trade he and his aſſociates continued for about two years after Sharp had received his pardon for the former offence; and probably their depredations might have continued for a conſiderable time longer, but that Sharp was guilty of a moſt enormous crime, which rendered his fate equally ſpeedy and certain.

While he was making an attempt to break open a houſe in Drury-Lane, and when he had nearly ſucceeded, he was ſeen by a watchman, who immediately alarmed his brother officers of the night. Sharp was ſo enraged at this detection, that he inſtantly pulled a piſtol from his pocket, ſhot the watchman dead on the ſpot, and endeavoured to make his eſcape: but by this time the other watchmen being alarmed, he was taken into cuſtody, detained for that night, and committed to Newgate on the following day.

When he was brought to his trial, the jury were fully convinced of his guilt, in conſequence of which he was convicted, and ſentenced to be hanged at the end of Long-Acre, very near the

ſpot

ſpot where the murder was committed; and in this place he ſuffered on the 22d of September 1704.

The ſhort leſſon to be learnt from the fate of this malefactor is, to be "content with that ſta-"tion to which it has pleaſed God to call us." The ſituation of a private ſoldier is not the moſt agreeable; but when a man has been raſh enough to enliſt, he ſhould have ſufficient prudence to ſerve with patience and reſignation till he can obtain an honourable diſcharge.

It is a circumſtance to be lamented that the pay of our common ſoldiers is no greater now than it was more than half a century ago, though proviſions are almoſt doubled in price within that period. Hence, probably, it ariſes, that we have ſuch an amazing number of thieves among our common ſoldiers; a number much greater than is generally imagined; for when a military man is committed to Newgate for trial, it is not expreſſed that he is a ſoldier. In a word, the condition of theſe men is pitiable in a high degree; and we ought to encreaſe the pay of our ſoldiers, or leſſen the number on the preſent eſtabliſhment.

Incidents reſpecting the Life and Execution of JOHN SMITH, who ſuffered for Robbing on the Highway.

JOHN SMITH was born at Winchcomb, about ten miles from the city of Glouceſter, of honeſt parents, who gave him a decent and religious education, and brought him up to the buſineſs of peruke-making: but being of an idle and

and extravagant diſpoſition, he quitted his employment, and went to ſea; and though he continued a ſailor but a ſhort time, yet his manners became more abandoned during this ſhort period.

When he quitted the naval ſervice he became intimately acquainted with a perſon of his own profeſſion in Chancery-Lane, with whom he agreed to go and commit depredations on the highway; and, in conſequence of this determination, they ſet out together on Sunday the 29th of October, 1704.

When they had got as far as Paddington they waited in expectation of ſeeing ſome perſon whom they might rob; and in this interval Smith looked over a ſtile, and ſeeing the gallows * at Tyburn, he was ſtruck with a ſenſe of the danger and ignominy to which he was expoſing himſelf, and hereupon he would have adviſed his companion to go home; but the latter refuſed ſo to do, and ridiculed Smith for his want of courage.

Soon afterwards one Mr. Birch rode down the road, whom they robbed of his mare; and on the following day Smith ſet out on this mare, and robbed the paſſengers in three ſtage-coaches near Epping-Foreſt. On the next Wedneſday he committed depredations on three other ſtage-coaches and a hackney coach, on Hounſlow-Heath; and on the Saturday following he robbed three more coaches, in the neighbourhood of St. Albans, in all which robberies he did not obtain booty to the amount of above twenty pounds.

* In former times the gallows at Tyburn was not moveable:—it is but of late years that the gibbet has been put up on occaſion of each periodical execution. An alteration that does credit to the preſent age.

On Monday the ſixth of November Smith attacked a gentleman's carriage on Finchley-Common; but being immediately purſued, he was taken into cuſtody, and being tried at the next ſeſſions held at the Old-Bailey, he was capitally convicted, received ſentence of death, and was executed at Tyburn on the 20th of December, 1704, after confeſſing the juſtice of his ſentence, and hoping that youth would take warning by his fatal example, and avoid thoſe practices that had brought him to deſtruction.

It is very remarkable of this malefactor that he was a highwayman of only eight days ſtanding at the utmoſt; for the firſt robbery that he committed was on the 29th of October, and the laſt on the ſixth of November.

A thouſand ſermons have been preached on the brevity of human life; but ſurely none of them can ſtrike the mind more forcibly than the concluſion to be drawn from the fate of this malefactor. What a ſhort period from the firſt notorious violation of the law, to the becoming an inſtance of its utmoſt rigour!

It does not very frequently happen that criminals are cut off after ſo very ſhort a career as this man: but thoſe who abandon themſelves to the making unlawful depredations on their neighbours may be morally certain that they have but a ſhort time to live, and even that this ſhort period ſhall be filled with care, anxiety, and perturbation. What man can reſt in his bed who lies down with the conſciouſneſs of having robbed his neighbour? Sleep is abſolutely neceſſary to the ſupport of the human frame; yet ſurely thieves can ſleep only when overcome by drunkenneſs: and even then their ſleep muſt be diſturbed; and they muſt, in the language of the poet,

poet, " fear each buſh an officer." A felon, convicted in his own mind, can ſcarcely take up a news-paper, in which he will not read ſomething reſpecting wretches in circumſtances in ſome degree correſponding with his own.

What a dreadful life! and how eaſy to avoid it by a ſtrict adherence to the maxim " Do unto all " men, as you would they ſhould do unto you."

Narrative of the Caſe of WILLIAM ELBY, who was hanged for Houſe-breaking and Murder.

THIS man was indicted for robbing the houſe of —— Barry, Eſq. of Fulham, and murdering his gardener; the circumſtances of which horrid tale are as follows.

Elby having determined on robbing the houſe, arrived at Fulham ſoon after midnight, and had wrenched open one of the windows, at which he was getting in, when the gardener awaking, came down to prevent the intended robbery.

The gardener having a light in his hand, Elby, terrified leaſt he ſhould be known, ſeized a knife, and ſtabbed him to the heart, of which wound the poor man fell dead at his feet. This being done, he broke open a cheſt of drawers, and ſtole about two hundred and fifty pounds, with which he immediately repaired to his aſſociates in London.

Elby was naturally inclined to gaiety, and dreſſed in a ſtile much above people of his profeſſion: but being at this juncture in poſſeſſion of a greater ſum of money than uſual, thoſe who knew him ſuſpected that it could not have been honeſtly obtained; and every one now talking

of the horrid murder that had been committed at Fulham, the idea occurred that it had been perpetrated by Elby; and their ſuſpicion was ſtrengthened by reflecting that he began to abound in caſh immediately after the murder was committed.

At this period Elby uſed to frequent a public houſe in the Strand, where being caſually in company, the robbery and murder at Fulham became the ſubject of converſation. Hereupon Elby turned pale, and ſeeing one of the company go out of the room, he was ſo terrified that he immediately ran out of the houſe without paying the reckoning.

In a very ſhort time after he was gone, a perſon called for him; but as he was not there ſaid he would go to his lodgings. The landlord, enraged that the reckoning had not been paid, demanded where he lived, which being told, he was taken into cuſtody on the following day, and committed on ſuſpicion of the robbery and murder.

On his trial Elby ſteadily denied the perpetration of the crimes with which he was charged, and his conviction would have been very doubtful, but that a woman with whom he cohabited became an evidence, and ſwore that he came from Fulham with the money the morning after the perpetration of the fact.

It was alſo depoſed by other perſons, that they ſaw him come out of Mr. Barry's houſe on the morning the murder was committed; but as they did not then know what had happened, they had entertained no ſuſpicion of him.

On the circumſtances above-mentioned Elby received ſentence of death, and being executed at Fulham on the 13th of September, 1704, was hung

hung in chains near the place where the crime was perpetrated.

He confeſſed that he committed the robbery, and that he had been guilty of many other crimes: but denied being guilty of the murder, declaring that an accomplice murdered the gardener. In this, however, not the ſlighteſt regard could be paid to his declaration, nothing ariſing in the courſe of the evidence to intimate that he had any accomplice.

William Elby was born in the year 1673, at Deptford in Kent, and ſerved his time with a blockmaker at Rotherhithe, during which he became acquainted with ſome women of ill fame. After the term of his apprenticeſhip was expired he kept company with ſome young fellows of ſuch bad character, that he found it neceſſary to enter on board a ſhip, to prevent worſe conſequences.

On his return from ſea he enliſted as a ſoldier; but while in this ſtation he committed many ſmall thefts, in order to ſupport bad women with whom he was connected.

At length he deſerted from the army, aſſumed a new name, and prevailed on ſome of his companions to engage in houſe-breaking; and thus proceeded from one degree of vice to another, till he committed the crime for which his life paid the ſacrifice to the inſulted laws of his country.

A few remarks on the conduct and fate of this malefactor may tend to the ſervice of ſuch of the riſing generation whoſe paſſions may tempt them to deviate from the paths of virtue.

The firſt circumſtance that occaſioned Elby's being ſuſpected was his abounding in money ſoon after the robbery was committed. It generally happens that thieves ſpend in extravagance what they

they have diſhoneſtly obtained; ſo true is the old ſaying, "Got over the devil's back, ſpent under "his belly." The circumſtance of his turning pale, and ſo haſtily leaving the room at the public-houſe where the robbery and murder were mentioned, marks, in a very ſtriking manner, the agonizing tortures of a guilty conſcience!

He was no ſooner gone than a perſon called to enquire for him, whence a diſcovery was made of his lodgings, and he was taken into cuſtody; and the moſt material witneſs againſt him on his trial proves to be a woman with whom he had cohabited. Hence let perſons of diſhoneſt lives learn that they are never ſafe even for a ſingle moment, and that thoſe in whom they moſt confide may be the immediate inſtruments in the hand of Providence to bring them to condign puniſhment.

Elby's denying his principal guilt to the laſt moment, proves that the mind dreads the fear of public cenſure, even at the moment the body is about to become an immediate prey to the worms. Hence, let every man bluſh to be guilty of a crime, which, in his dying moments, he muſt neceſſarily bluſh to acknowledge.

Let virtue all our footſteps guide,
And all our ways attend,
Guard us through life with decent pride,
Suſtain us in our end!

Narra-

Narrative of the Trial and Execution of EDWARD JEFFERIES, gentleman, who was convicted of the Murder of ROBERT WOODCOCK; with ſome Particulars reſpecting ELIZABETH TORSHELL, who was acquitted of the ſaid Murder.

THE unfortunate man who is the principal ſubject of this narrative was born about the year 1666, at the Devizes, in Wiltſhire. He ſerved his clerkſhip to an eminent attorney in London, and afterwards carried on buſineſs on his own account: but his father dying while he was yet young, and leaving him a conſiderable fortune, he entered into too profuſe a way of living, and embarked in the debaucheries of the age, which diſſipated his ſubſtance.

After this, however, he had the happineſs to marry a young lady of St. Albans, with whom he received a decent fortune, and might have lived in proſperity with her, but that he continued in his former courſe of debauchery, till his wife was provoked to leave him.

He now aſſociated with one Mrs. Elizabeth Torſhell, with whom Mr. Woodcock had likewiſe an illicit connection. Jefferies and Woodcock had frequent debates reſpecting this woman, but at length appeared to be reconciled, and dined together at the Blue Poſts near Pall-Mall, on the day that the murder was committed.

After dinner they went into the fields near Chelſea, and a quarrel ariſing between them reſpecting Mrs. Torſhell, Jefferies drew his ſword; and before Woodcock, who was left-handed, could draw his, he received a wound, of which he almoſt immediately died. Woodcock had no ſooner fallen than Jefferies rubbed ſome of his

blood upon his (the deceaſed's) ſword, took ſomething out of his pocket, and then went towards Chelſea, where he had appointed to meet Mrs. Torſhell.

Some boys playing in the fields ſaw the body of the deceaſed, and a part of the tranſaction above-mentiond. The body was removed to St. Martin's church-yard to be owned; and on the following day Mrs. Torſhell came, among a croud of other people, to ſee it; and was taken into cuſtody, on her ſaying ſhe knew the murdered party, and expreſſing great concern at his fate.

Her lodgings being ſearched, a number of articles were found, which ſhe owned Mr. Jefferies had brought thither, though they appeared to have belonged to Woodcock. On this Jefferies was alſo taken into cuſtody, and both of them were committed to Newgate.

On the trial Mrs. Torſhell was acquitted; and Mr. Jefferies alledged in his defence that he was at another place at the time the murder was committed; and he called ſeveral witneſſes to prove this particular; but as theſe did not agree in the circumſtances, he was convicted, and received ſentence of death.

During the time he lay under condemnation he repeatedly denied the having committed the murder, and exerted all his intereſt to obtain a reprieve, which he was at length promiſed, through the mediation of the duke of Ormond.

On the 9th of September 1705, when the proceſſion towards Tyburn had got as far as St. Giles's, a reſpite met him, to defer the execution till the 21ſt of the ſame month; but on that day he was executed.

At the place of his death he again denied the fact: but ſaid he freely forgave thoſe who had injured

jured him, and died in perfect charity with all mankind. He did not appear in the leaſt dejected on account of his calamitous ſituation; but deſired the prayers of all good chriſtians in the laſt moment of his life.

From the caſe of the above wretched malefactor we may learn the evil conſequence of living a diſſipated life. If Mr. Jefferies had gone on in the way marked out for him by providence, he might have lived in a high degree of credit and reputation; but he, like the prodigal ſon, waſted his ſubſtance in riotous living. However, on his marriage, he had a ſecond chance for happineſs; but, like the cock in the fable, he threw away the jewel which he had obtained in a wife.

From his connection with Mrs. Torſhell we may learn, that as it was contrary to the laws of the church, and in defiance of thoſe of morality, ſo, connections of that ſort ought to be particularly avoided by married men of every rank of life. The inſtances are comparatively few where a connection of this kind leads to murder: but as every ſuch connection is a deviation from the laws of virtue and honour, they ought carefully to be ſhunned by every man who has a regard to his reputation in this world, or his happineſs in the next.

Singular Caſe of JOHN SMITH, called HALF-HANGED SMITH, who was convicted, but eſcaped Death in a moſt remarkable manner.

THIS malefactor was the ſon of a farmer at Malton about fifteen miles from the city of York, who bound him apprentice to a packer

in London, with whom he ſerved out his time, and afterwards worked as a journeyman. He then went to ſea in a merchant-man, after which he entered on board a man of war, and was at the famous expedition againſt Vigo; but on the return from that expedition he was diſcharged.

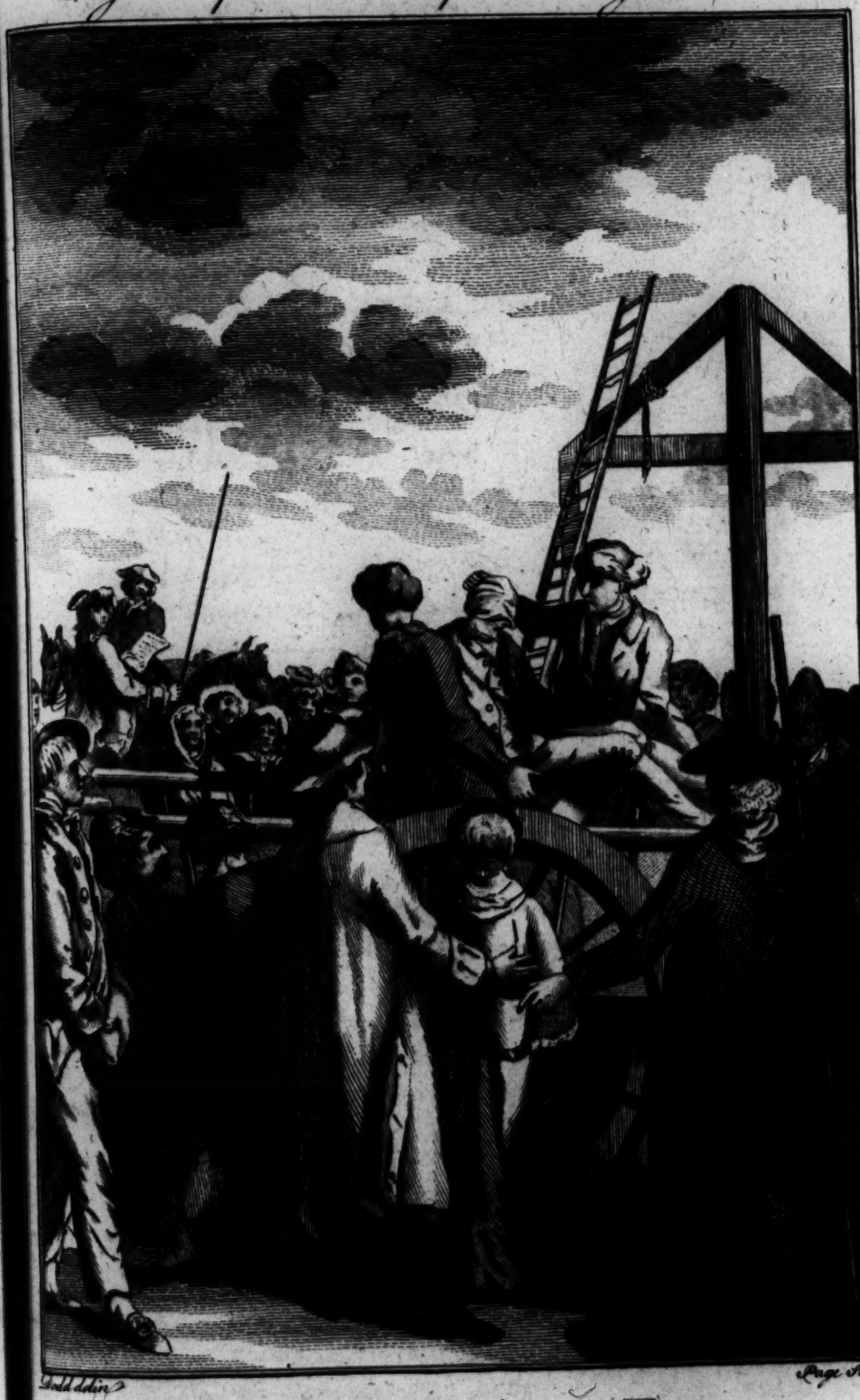
He had not been long diſengaged from the naval ſervice when he enliſted as a ſoldier in the regiment of guards commanded by lord Cutts: but in this ſtation he ſoon made bad connections, and engaged with ſome of his diſſolute companions as a houſe-breaker.

On the 5th of December 1705, he was arraigned on four different indictments, on two of which he was convicted, and received ſentence of death. While he lay under ſentence he ſeemed very little affected with his ſituation, abſolutely depending on a reprieve through the intereſt of his friends.

However, an order came for his execution on the 24th day of the ſame month, in conſequence of which he was carried to Tyburn, where he performed his devotions, and was turned off in the uſual manner; but when he had hung near fifteen minutes the people preſent cried out "A "reprieve!" Hereupon the malefactor was cut down, and being conveyed to a houſe in the neighbourhood, he ſoon recovered, in conſequence of bleeding, and other proper applications.

When he perfectly recovered his ſenſes he was aſked what were his feelings at the time of execution; to which he repeatedly replied, in ſubſtance, as follows; that, "when he was turned "off, he, for ſome time, was ſenſible of very "great pain, occaſioned by the weight of his "body, and felt his ſpirits in a ſtrange commo-"tion, violently preſſing upwards: that having

Engraved for The Malefactor's Register.



Todd delin. Page Sculp.

JOHN SMITH *cut down at* **TYBURN,**
in consequence of a reprieve which came five Minutes after he had been turned off.



" forced their way to his head, he, as it were,
" ſaw a great blaze or glaring light, which ſeem-
" ed to go out at his eyes with a flaſh, and then
" he loſt all ſenſe of pain. That after he was cut
" down, and began to come to himſelf, the blood
" and ſpirits forcing themſelves into their former
" channels, put him, by a ſort of pricking or
" ſhooting, to ſuch intolerable pain, that he
" could have wiſhed thoſe hanged who had cut
" him down."

After this narrow eſcape from the grave, Smith pleaded to his pardon on the 20th of February: yet ſuch was his propenſity to evil deeds, that he returned to his former practices, and being again apprehended, was tried at the Old-Bailey for houſe-breaking; but ſome difficulties ariſing in the caſe, the jury brought in a ſpecial verdict, in conſequence of which the affair was left to the opinion of the twelve judges, who determined in favour of the priſoner.

After this ſecond extraordinary eſcape, he was a third time indicted; but the proſecutor happening to die before the day of trial, he once more obtained that liberty which his conduct ſhewed he had not deſerved.

We have no account what became of this man after this third remarkable incident in his favour: but Chriſtian charity inclines us to hope that he made a proper uſe of the ſingular diſpenſations of Providence evidenced in his own perſon.

Hiſtory ſcarce affords a more extraordinary caſe than this of Smith: but let no one who reads this account of his triple eſcape from the gallows indulge a moment's inclination to the purſuit of illicit practices: ſince, in almoſt every inſtance but the preſent, the ways of vice aſſuredly lead to deſtruction; and we are not aſſured that they did

not do ſo in his caſe; for the ſequel of his life has not come to our knowledge.

Caſe of ROGER LOWEN, who was hanged at Turnham-Green, for Murder.

THE unfortunate ſubject of this narrative was a native of Hanover, where he was born about the year 1667, and educated in the principles of the Lutheran religion. His father being huntſman to the duke of Zell, that prince ſent young Lowen into France to obtain the qualifications of a gentleman; and on his return from his travels he was one of the pages under the duke's maſter of the horſe.

Coming over to England when he was between twenty and thirty years of age, the duke of Shrewſbury patronized him, and procured him a place. Having thus obtained ſomething like a ſettlement, he married a young Engliſh woman, with whom he lived in an affectionate manner for a conſiderable time: but, in the year 1697, on his going abroad to attend king William at the treaty of Ryſwick, he left Mrs. Lowen with her couſin, who was married to Mr. Richard Lloyd of Turnham-Green.

When Lowen returned from Holland, he became, with what juſtice we cannot ſay, extremely jealous of his wife, and he pretended to have received inconteſtible proof of her criminal converſation with Mr. Lloyd, for the murder of whom he was indicted at the Old-Bailey, on the 20th of September, 1706, and was tried by a jury compoſed equally of Engliſhmen and foreigners.

In the courſe of the evidence it appeared that on the evening preceding the day on which the murder was committed, Lowen invited Lloyd and his wife to dine with him on the following day: that Mr. Lloyd, being obliged to go to Acton, did not come very early; at which Lowen expreſſed a conſiderable degree of uneaſineſs: that when he came, Lowen introduced him into the parlour, with great apparent civility. That Mr. Lloyd put his ſword in a corner of the room, ſome time after which Lowen invited him into the garden to ſee his plants: after which they came together into the houſe, appearing to be good friends, and Lowen deſired his wife to haſten the dinner: that while ſhe went to obey his directions, Lowen drew Mr. Lloyd's ſword a little way out of the ſcabbard, as if admiring it, and aſked who was his cutler; and that while the deceaſed ſtood with his hands behind him, Lowen, ſtamping with his foot, drew the ſword quite out of the ſcabbard and ſtabbed Mr. Lloyd through the back; on which his wife, (who was preſent at this horrid tranſaction) ſaid to him, "Speak to "me my dear;" but he was unable to do ſo, and having lifted up his eyes, groaned twice, and then expired.

Mr. Hawley, a juſtice of peace in the neighbourhood, paſſing by at the inſtant, Mrs. Lloyd acquainted him with what had happened; on which he examined the priſoner, who confeſſed his intention of having committed the murder ſooner, and was only concerned leſt he had not killed Mr. Lloyd.

The particulars reſpecting the murder being proved to the ſatisfaction of the jury, Lowen was convicted, and received ſentence of death, in conſequence

ſequence of which he was hanged at Turnham-Green, on the the 25th of October, 1706.

While he lay under ſentence of death he was attended by Meſſrs. Idzardi and Ruperti, two Divines of his own country, who were aſſiduous to convince him of the atrociouſneſs of the crime which he had committed: and he became a ſincere penitent, confeſſing with his laſt breath the crime he had committed in ſhedding innocent blood.

From this melancholy narrative we may learn the fatal effects of jealouſy, which generally judges ill of the party accuſed, and always renders the jealous perſon miſerable. Mr. Lowen was jealous of his wife; but we have no proof that there was any foundation for his ſuſpicions. Hence let married men be taught not to indulge unwarrantable ſentiments reſpecting that amiable ſex who are the great ſources of all the comforts of life. A man may be wretched in a thouſand inſtances which occur in life; but let him retire to the wife of his boſom, and her advice will extricate him from many a difficulty, or her conſolations ſooth him to bear his burdens. There is great wiſdom in the following proverbs of Solomon. "Who can find a virtuous woman? for "her price is far above rubies. The heart of "her huſband does ſafely truſt in her, ſo that he "ſhall have no need of ſpoil. She will do him "good and not evil, all the days of her life. "Her children ariſe up, and call her bleſſed, "her huſband alſo, and he praiſeth her."

Account of the Life, Trial, and Behaviour of JOHN HERMAN BRIAN, who was hanged in Chains, for robbing, and ſetting fire to the Houſe of PETER PERSUADE, Eſq.

THIS malefactor was a native of Dully, a village in the bailiwick of Morge, in the Canton of Berne in Switzerland, where he was born about the year 1683. He left Switzerland while very young, and went to Geneva, where he lived in the ſervice of a gentleman above four years, and then made the tour of Italy with a perſon of fortune.

When the tour was compleated he came to England, and lived in ſeveral reputable families for the ſpace of about three years, and laſt of all, for about two months, in that of Mr. Perſuade, where he committed the facts which coſt him his life.

He was brought to his trial on the 16th of of October 1707, and indicted for breaking open the dwelling-houſe of Peter Perſuade, Eſq. and ſtealing a gold etwee caſe and chain, a gold watch, ſeventeen guineas, and other valuable effects. He was likewiſe indicted for burning and conſuming the manſion-houſe of Peter Perſuade, Eſq. in St. James's-Street.

It appeared in evidence that the priſoner had been diſcharged from his ſervice two days before the commiſſion of the fact; that the houſe was made faſt about ten at night, when the family went to bed: that Mrs. Perſuade had locked up her watch, etwee caſe, &c. that waking about three in the morning ſhe ſmelt a fire, on which ſhe left her chamber, and found a lighted flambeaux in the paſſage, which had burnt the boards: then

then opening a parlour-door the flames ſpread with ſuch rapidity that the family had only time to preſerve their lives, without ſaving any of the effects.

A poor woman going by at the time, and ſeeing the ſmoke, knocked at the door to alarm the family, and at that inſtant ſaw a man come over the wall, (ſuppoſed to be Brian) who ſaid to her "D—n you, are you drunk? What do you do "here knocking at people's doors at this time?" and immediately he went away.

It likewiſe came out in evidence that the priſoner had offered to ſell the etwee-caſe to Meſſrs. Stevenſon and Acton, Goldſmiths, for eight pounds; but they ſtopped it on ſuſpicion that it was ſtolen, and, on enquiry, found to whom it belonged. The priſoner afterwards returning to demand it *, they took him into cuſtody, and being carried before a magiſtrate, and ſearched, a dagger and two piſtols were found on him.

It appeared, from the teſtimony of other evidences, that when the priſoner quitted the ſervice of Mr. Perſuade, he took a lodging in Soho, but was not at home on the night that the facts were committed; and at noon on the following day he quitted this lodging, and took another in Spitalfields, to which he conveyed a trunk, a box, and a bundle, which were found to contain part of Mr. Perſuade's effects.

It

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* As the goldſmiths ſuſpected it to be ſtolen, it may ſeem extraordinary that they did not ſtop the priſoner at firſt: but this was not cuſtomary ſeventy years ago. It is a doctrine well worthy notice, that in caſe of felony, every man is a conſtable, and runs no hazard in taking the ſuſpected party into cuſtody.—Hence the detection of many a thief within a few years paſt.

It likewiſe appeared that he had ſold a fowling-piece and two piſtols which were ſtolen from Mr. Perſuade. On his trial he denied every thing that was alledged againſt him; aſſerting that he bought all the goods of a ſtranger.: but as he adduced nothing like proof in ſupport of this aſſertion, the jury found him guilty without the leaſt heſitation.

While under ſentence of death he ſteadily denied being guilty of the offences of which he had been convicted, and reflected on the proſecutor, magiſtrates and witneſſes; and perſiſted in a declaration of his innocence to the laſt moment of his life; though the circumſtances againſt him were ſo unuſually ſtrong, that not the leaſt credit could be given to his averments.

He likewiſe made repeated attempts to eſcape out of Newgate, by unſcrewing and filing off his irons; but being detected herein, he was properly ſecured till the time of his execution: and being aſked by the ordinary of Newgate how he could waſte his precious time in ſuch fruitleſs attempts, he anſwered that "Life was ſweet, and that any "other man as well as himſelf would endeavour "to ſave it if he could."

This offender ſuffered the ſentence of the law in St. James's ſtreet, on the 24th of October, 1707, and was afterwards hanged in chains near the gravel-pits at Acton.

Some uſeful leſſons may be learnt from the fate of this malefactor. It ſeldom happens that a robbery is committed but ſome of the ſtolen goods are offered to ſale. In this caſe, if the intended purchaſer be honeſt, detection almoſt always follows; for in general it is eaſy to judge from appearance and other circumſtances, whether the

effects that a man offers are really his own property, or entruſted to his care by any perſon who has a right to diſpoſe of them.

Of late years, however, our felons have found a more ſecure method than they had formerly of diſpoſing of ſtolen goods. They either ſell them to Jews, who tranſmit them to Holland, or pledge them to knaviſh pawnbrokers, who form but too true a judgment in what manner the goods were obtained: but they make no ſcruple of lending money on them, from a conviction that they will never be redeemed; and from the chance they have that thoſe who pledge them will be hanged in the courſe of a few months, in which caſe the pawnbroker thinks himſelf ſafe in ſelling the ſtolen goods.

To remedy theſe evils, we are in want of a ſingle act of parliament, to baniſh the Jews from this kingdom, and to aboliſh the trade of pawnbroking. In the eye of common ſenſe and ſound policy nothing ſeems more probable than that if this country was fairly rid of all the Jews and pawnbrokers, the trade of thieving would be almoſt at an end. If nothing that was ſtolen could be ſafely ſold or pledged, ſcarce any thing would be ſtolen but money; and how few inſtances have we, highway-robberies excepted, where the obtaining of ready caſh is the principal object of the villain's ſearch?

The crime of the malefactor before us is heightened by murder, being added to robbery; for though in the event no perſon's life was loſt; his intention was as criminal as if the whole neighbourhood had been reduced to aſhes, and all the inhabitants had periſhed in the flames.

The view of Brian muſt have been to conceal the robbery by the fire. Hence let thoſe who are

tempted

tempted to do an evil act learn that the commiſſion of a ſmall crime as naturally leads to the perpetration of a greater, as the waters of rivers flow into the ſea. Let them learn to guard againſt the firſt inducement to an evil act; let them reſiſt it with all the reſolution in their power, and devoutly pray for that aſſiſtance againſt temptation, which may be reaſonably expected by thoſe who aſk it in the full confidence of faith.

It ſhould be remembered that robberies attempted and perpetrated in the night, are generally diſcovered in the broad face of day, to the confuſion of the offender.

Almighty God, thy piercing eye
Strikes through the ſhades of night,
And our moſt ſecret actions lie
All open to thy ſight.

Particulars reſpecting the Caſe of JOHN HALL, a Chimney-Sweeper, who was executed for Burglary.

JACK HALL was remarkably diſtinguiſhed in his time on account of the number and variety of robberies in which he was concerned; and few thieves have been more the ſubject of public converſation.

His parents were very poor people, living in Biſhop's-Head-Court, Gray's-Inn-Lane, who put him out to a chimney-ſweeper; but he had not been long in this employment, before he quitted it, and commenced pickpocket, and was accounted very dextrous in that profeſſion; but notwithſtanding this dexterity he was frequently detected,

and treated in the uſual manner, by ducking in the horſe-pond: he was likewiſe often ſent to Bridewell, as a puniſhment for theſe offences.

After frequent puniſhments of this nature, he commenced ſhop-lifter, and, in the month of January 1698, he was convicted at the Old Bailey of ſtealing a pair of ſhoes; for which he was whipped at the cart's tail: but had no ſooner obtained his liberty then he commenced houſe-breaker; and being convicted of breaking open the houſe of Jonathan Bretail, he was ſentenced to be hanged, in the year 1700, but was afterwards pardoned, on condition of tranſporting himſelf, within ſix months, to ſome of the American plantations.

In conſequence hereof he entered on board a ſhip, from which, however, he ſoon deſerted, and engaged with his old accomplices; and they now took up the trade of robbing country waggons, and ſtealing portmanteaus from behind coaches. For an offence of this latter kind Hall was tried and convicted, in the year 1702, and being firſt burnt on the cheek, was committed cloſe priſoner to Bridewell for two years.

He had no ſooner obtained his liberty than he joined with Stephen Bunce, Dick Low, and others of his diſſolute companions, in breaking open the houſe of a baker, at Hackney; which burglary was attended with the following circumſtances. Having broke into the houſe ſoon after midnight, and the journeyman and apprentice being at work, the robbers tied them neck and heels, and threw them into the kneading-trough, and one of the villains ſtood over them with a drawn ſword, while the others went up ſtairs to rob the houſe: but the baker being unwilling to tell them were the money was, Hall ſeized a young child, a grand-daughter to the old people,

and

and ſwore he would thruſt her into the oven, if they did not make the diſcovery. Terrified at this circumſtance, the old man told him where they might find his money, in conſequence of which they robbed him of about ſeventy pounds.

Though this ſingular robbery was much the ſubject of public converſation, yet the perpetrators of it were not taken into cuſtody. Soon afterwards the houſe of Francis Saunders, a chairman, near St. James's, was broke open; and Saunders being informed that this robbery was committed by Hall and his companions, he obſerved theſe very men, as he was attending at St. James's Gate, about three in the morning; and informing the watchmen, they purſued them; on which Hall and one of his accomplices fired at a watchman, who was wounded in the thigh. Hall eſcaped; but his companions were apprehended and tried, but acquitted for want of evidence.

We find Hall in cuſtody in 1705, for breaking open the houſe of Richard Bartholomew: but he had been ſo frequently at the Old Bailey, that he was afraid of being tried by his own name, and therefore changed it to that of Price; but the evidence not being ſufficient to convict him, he was again acquitted. Having obtained his liberty he returned to his former practices, and in October 1706, was indicted for ſtealing a handkerchief, in company with Arthur Chambers, but once more diſcharged in defect of evidence.

Repeated as theſe acquittals were, they made no impreſſion on the mind of Hall, who was ſoon afterwards taken into cuſtody for a fact which he had reaſon to think would have put an end to his wicked career; wherefore he became an evidence againſt Chambers, Bell and Fitch, three of his accom-

accomplices, and thus once more preſerved his life.

Being again at liberty he was concerned in breaking open the houſe of captain Guyon, near Stepney, in company with Richard Low and Stephen Bunce, and ſtealing a conſiderable quantity of plate and other effects.

Of this offence the parties were found guilty, and were executed at Tyburn on the 17th of December, 1707.

Hall being very celebrated in his profeſſion, the following elegy and epitaph made their appearance ſoon after his life had paid the forfeit to the violated laws of his country.

An Elegy on JACK HALL *the Chimney-ſweeper.*

AT laſt thy roguiſh reign is ended,
And thou deſervedly ſuſpended:
Where art thou now, thou reprobate,
Who jeſted'ſt at a future ſtate,
And ſaid the place the devils kept
Was ſooty, wanted to be ſwept?
And they conſulting did agree
To ſend expreſs away for thee:
And ſo thou'rt gone the Tyburn-road,
The neareſt way to their abode.
But yet 'tis thought that there are ſtore
Of thy fly trade gone there before;
Witneſs the bacon, beef, and tongue,
Which in the chimnies reezing hung,
Till by thy tribe were ſwept away,
For which they now ſeverely pay.
Methinks I ſee the ſulph'rous ſhore,
Where clouds of thieves ſent there before,
Thee welcome give with diſmal roar.

Did'ſt

Did'ſt think the fiends there would be civil
Becauſe they're known to love what's evil?
Make but thy outſide like appear,
Thy intellects already are:
So put thy ſweeping garments on,
'Twill make each devil think thee one;
Or cauſe this proverb after all,
Ha! like to like, ſays the devil to Hall.
If every rogue throughout the nation,
Should die, like Hall, by ſuffocation,
Some now in coaches would in carts
At Triple-Tree receive deſerts;
Lawyers, phyſicians, courtiers, jaylors,
Would march in troops, and all the taylors;
Nay, I could mention too a L—d,
But, like his S—h, 'twould be abſurd,
Beſides Scan—Mag—that is the word.
Some hemp ſhould likewiſe be commixt,
For many who pervert the text,
And what is worſe than thieves can do,
Cheat you of ſoul and money too,
Lead ſcandalous and wicked lives,
And, like Bell-ſwagger, ride your wives.
The benefit of the clergy ſee,
When ſome poor rogues are at the tree,
Who 'cauſe they cannot read a verſe,
Are made to ſing it, and that's worſe;
Which, by the by, is charming ſinging,
They ſhake ſo well, remember ſwinging;
Beſides, obſerve the fatal line,
Makes each exactly ſtop in time:
O fooliſh cuſtom! (as one ſaid)
For ſinners when they're almoſt dead
To have ſuch crotchets in their head.
If to this elegy a proper tune is,
Pray howl it forth with *Finis Funis*.

EPI-

EPITAPH.

HERE lies Hall's clay;
Thus ſwept away;
If bolt or key
Oblig'd his ſtay
At judgment-day,
He'd make eſſay
To get away:
Be't as it may,
I'd better ſay,
Here lies Jack Hall,
And that is all.

This caſe of Hall affords a ſhort and ſtriking leſſon to the ſons of rapine. His crimes were numerous, and his eſcapes repeated; yet he returned to the commiſſion of ſimilar crimes, as if reſolutely bent on his own deſtruction.

We have had ſome inſtances, though very few, of men whom a ſingle misfortune has tempted to reform the error of their ways. Happy would it be if this was the caſe in every inſtance. Few men fall a ſacrifice to the firſt crime; but the firſt ought to be a warning to every one never to commit a ſecond.

Short Account of STEPHEN BUNCE and RICHARD Low, Accomplices of, and executed with, JOHN HALL.

STEPHEN BUNCE was deſcended from a reputable family in the county of Kent, and educated by his grandfather, who had an eſtate of 800 l. per annum, in the neighbourhood

of Feverſham. Bunce being of a wild diſpoſition, was ſent to ſea; and having made two or three voyages, his ſhip was ordered to Plymouth, where going on ſhore, he contracted an acquaintance with the daughter of a publican, whom he married; but his wife, who was a vulgar woman, ſoon making illicit connections, he abandoned her, and repaired to London, where he frequented billiard-tables and gaming-houſes, and having ſoon ſpent his money in bad company, he began to ſupply his extravagance by depredations on the public.

He continued his illicit practices till he was detected for ſtealing a ſword from the ſide of an officer of the city trained-bands, for which offence he was tried in Auguſt 1705, found guilty, and received ſentence of death; but was afterwards pardoned, on the condition that he ſhould tranſport himſelf.

Having thus obtained his liberty, he immediately aſſociated himſelf with his old companions, and committed ſeveral robberies, for one of which he thought he ſhould be convicted: he therefore turned evidence againſt his accomplices, who were all executed.

Being once more at liberty, he entered into connections with Jack Hall, with whom he and Low were apprehended for breaking open the houſe of captain Guyon; and were tried, convicted, and executed for this offence. Bunce was not quite 28 years of age when he was hanged. He confeſſed himſelf penitent; acknowledged the numerous robberies of which he had been guilty, but requeſted his friends not to petition for his life, as his ſuffering the rigour of

the law would be the only proper atonement for his offences.

RICHARD LOW was born near the Horſe-Ferry, Weſtminſter, and ſent to ſea early in life; but quitting the naval employment, he aſſociated with a number of abandoned fellows, who ſubſiſted by plundering the public. In 1704 he was apprehended for houſe-breaking, but acquitted for want of evidence. He was afterwards admitted an evidence againſt his accomplices, who were all executed on his teſtimony.

Having thus again obtained his liberty, he began to rob in company with Hall and Bunce; till at length his life paid the forfeit due to his repeated crimes.

To the remarks made on the life of Hall, little need be added reſpecting theſe malefactors. Similar acts of depredation brought them all to the ſame untimely end. Youth cannot be too frequently or too earneſtly warned to avoid thoſe paths that lead to deſtruction: and they may be aſſured that no life is, or can be, ſo agreeable as that which is regulated by the duties of religion, and diſtinguiſhed by the practice of every moral and ſocial virtue.

Narrative of the Caſe of JOHN MORGRIDGE, who was hanged for the Murder of Mr. WILLIAM COPE.

AT a ſeſſions held at the Old-Bailey on the 5th of July, 1706, John Morgridge was indicted for the wilful murder of William Cope, gentleman.

The

The circumſtances attending this melancholy caſe were as follow. Cope having obtained the rank of lieutenant in the army, invited ſeveral officers to dine with him at the Dolphin Tavern, in Tower-ſtreet; and one of the parties invited aſked Morgridge likewiſe to go, aſſuring him that he would be made welcome on the part of Mr. Cope.

Dinner being ended, Cope paid the reckoning, and then each man depoſiting half a crown, Morgridge and others adjourned to the guard-room, to which place more liquor was ſent. They had not been long there before a woman of the town came in a coach, and aſked for captain Cope. Being introduced to the guard-room, ſhe remained a ſhort time, and then ſaid, "Who will pay "for my coach?" Morgridge ſaid "I will;" and having done ſo, he advanced to ſalute her; but ſhe puſhed him from her in a diſdainful manner, and ſpoke to him in very abuſive terms, which induced him to treat her with the ſame kind of language.

This freedom was reſented by Cope, who took the woman's part, and a violent quarrel enſued between him and Morgridge, both of whom were intoxicated. This conteſt encreaſed to ſuch a degree, that they threw the bottles at each other; till at length Morgridge was ſo inflamed with paſſion, that he drew his ſword, and ſtabbed Cope, ſo that he inſtantly died.

Morgridge being taken into cuſtody was tried on the day above-mentioned; but a doubt ariſing in the breaſts of the jury, whether he was guilty of murder or manſlaughter, they brought in a ſpecial verdict, and the affair was left to be determined by the twelve judges.

In conſequence hereof the judges met at Serjeant's-Inn, and the caſe was argued before them by council; when they gave an unanimous opinion that he was guilty of wilful murder, becauſe he did not kill Cope with the weapons he was originally uſing, but aroſe from his ſeat and drew his ſword, which was deemed to imply a malicious intention.

In the interim, however, he made his eſcape from the Marſhalſea Priſon, and went into Flanders, where he remained about two years; but being uneaſy till he re-viſited his native country, he imprudently came back to England, and being apprehended, received ſentence of death, and was hanged at Tyburn on the 28th of April, 1708.

This offender was about forty years of age; the place of his birth was Canterbury, and his anceſtors had ſerved the crown for above two hundred years. He had been kettle-drummer to the firſt troop of horſe-guards for a conſiderable time, and was on the point of being advanced in the army, when the unhappy diſpute between him and Mr. Cope took place.

After conviction he was truly ſenſible of the crime of which he had been guilty, acknowledged the juſtice of his ſentence, and ſubmitted to his fate with a devout wiſh that his misfortune might have its proper effect, in the preventing ſimilar deſtruction happening to others.

This is but one inſtance of ſeveral that we ſhall have occaſion to record, of the fatal conſequences ariſing from a connection with women of abandoned characters: but for a woman of this caſt, the two men who were thus ſacrificed, the one to the impetuoſity of paſſion, the other to the rigour

of

of the law, might have lived, a credit to themſelves, and an advantage to the community.

On this occaſion it may not be improper to reflect on the horrid crime of ſeduction. The man who is guilty of ſeducing a modeſt young woman from the paths of virtue is, in ſome degree, an acceſſary to every crime ſhe may thereafter commit.

Women in general are of natures more gentle, of diſpoſitions more harmleſs, than men: yet when the mind of a woman is once contaminated, ſhe commonly becomes more vicious even than a man of bad character; and the amiable ſoftneſs of the ſex ſeems to be totally eradicated.

If a youth is tempted to a criminal connection with a woman already debauched by another, let him reflect that he is but ſeeking to perpetuate that infamy ſhe has acquired, and to render ſtill baſer a mind already contaminated. One would imagine that a ſlight degree of thought would be ſufficient to reſtrain youth from connections of this nature: but, unhappily, the paſſions are more prevalent than reaſon, and the connection is made before the youth has given himſelf time to think of its criminality. May this page of our work be an inſtructive one: and may thoſe who are tempted to a commiſſion of the crimes we would reprobate, remember the following lines in the proverbs of Solomon: "And why wilt thou "my ſon, be raviſhed with a ſtrange woman, "and embrace the boſom of a ſtranger? For the "ways of a man are before the eyes of the Lord, "and he pondereth all his goings. His own ini-"quities ſhall take the wicked himſelf, and he "ſhall be holden with the cords of his ſins. He "ſhall die without inſtruction; and in the great-"neſs of his folly he ſhall go aſtray."

Nar-

Narrative of the Life and Conduct of WILLIAM GREGG, who was executed for High-Treaſon, in correſponding with the Enemies of the Queen.

WILLIAM GREGG was born at Montroſe in Scotland, and having received the common inſtructions in the grammar ſchool of that town, finiſhed his education in the Univerſity of Aberdeen, and was intended by his friends for the ſtudy of divinity; but his inclination leading him to ſeek for advancement in the ſtate, he came to London, and ſoon afterwards went abroad as ſecretary to the ambaſſador to the court of Sweden.

During his reſidence abroad he debauched two Swediſh ladies, and was guilty of ſome other irregularities, in conſequence of which the ambaſſador diſmiſſed him from his ſervice, and he was glad to embark for London in the firſt ſhip that ſailed.

Soon after his arrival in London he was engaged by Mr. Secretary Harley, to write diſpatches; and letters of great importance were left unſealed and peruſed by Gregg. As the account of this malefactor which was given by the ordinary of Newgate is very ſuperficial and unſatisfactory, we ſhall give the following extracts reſpecting him from Biſhop Burnet's Hiſtory.

" At this time two diſcoveries were made very
" unlucky for Mr. Harley: Tallard wrote often
" to Chamillard, but he ſent the letters open to
" the ſecretary's office to be peruſed and ſealed
" up, and ſo to be conveyed by the way of Hol-
" land. Theſe were opened upon ſome ſuſpicion
" in Holland, and it appeared, that one in the
" ſecretary's office put letters in them, in which,

" as

" as he offered his ſervice to the courts of France " and St. Germains, ſo he gave an account of all " tranſactions here. In one of theſe he ſent a " copy of the letter that the queen was to write " in her own hand to the emperor: and he " marked what parts were drawn by the ſecreta- " ry, and what additions were made to it by the " lord treaſurer. This was the letter by which " the queen preſſed the ſending prince Eugene " into Spain; and this, if not intercepted, would " have been at Verſailles many days before it " could reach Vienna.

" He who ſent this, wrote, that by this they " might ſee what ſervice he could do them, if " well encouraged. All this was ſent over to the " duke of Marlborough; and upon ſearch it was " found to be written by one Gregg, a clerk, " whom Harley had not only entertained, but " had taken into a particular confidence, with- " out enquiring into the former parts of his life; " for he was a vicious and a neceſſitous perſon, " who had been ſecretary to the queen's envoy in " Denmark, but was diſmiſſed by him for his ill " qualities. Harley had made uſe of him to get " him intelligence, and he came to truſt him " with the peruſal and ſealing up of the letters, " which the French priſoners here in England " ſent over to France, and by that means he got " into the method of ſending intelligence thither. " He, when ſeized on, either upon remorſe or " hopes of pardon, confeſſed all, and ſigned his " confeſſion; upon that he was tried, and plead- " ing guilty, was condemned as a traitor, for " correſponding with the queen's enemies.

" At the ſame time Valiere and Bara, whom " Harley had employed as his ſpies to go often " over to Calais, under the pretence of bringing

" him

" him intelligence, were informed againſt, as
" ſpies employed by France to get intelligence
" from England, who carried over many letters
" to Calais and Bulloigne, and, as was believed,
" gave ſuch information of our trade and con-
" voys, that by their means we had made our
" great loſſes at ſea. They were often complain-
" ed of upon ſuſpicion, but they were always
" protected by Harley; yet the preſumptions
" againſt them were ſo violent, that they were at
" laſt ſeized on, and brought up priſoners."

The whigs took ſuch advantage of this circumſtance, that Mr. Harley was obliged to reſign, and his enemies, were inclined to carry matters ſtill further, and, were reſolved, if poſſible, to find out evidence enough to affect his life. With this view the houſe of lords ordered a committee to examine Gregg, and the other priſoners, who were very aſſiduous in the diſcharge of their commiſſion, as will appear from the following account, written by the ſame author.

" The lords who were appointed to examine
" Gregg, could not find out much by him; he
" had but newly begun his deſigns of betraying
" ſecrets, and he had no aſſociates with him in
" it. He told them, that all the papers of ſtate
" lay ſo careleſsly about the office, that every one
" belonging to it, even the door-keepers, might
" have read them all. Harley's cuſtom was to
" come to the office late on poſt-nights, and af-
" ter he had given his orders, and wrote his let-
" ters, he uſually went away, and left all to be
" copied out when he was gone. By that means
" he came to ſee every thing, in particular the
" queen's letter to the emperor. He ſaid, he
" knew the deſign on Toulon in May laſt, but
" he did not diſcover it, for he had not entered

" on his ill practices till October. This was all " he could ſay.

" By the examination of Valiere and Bara, and " of many others who lived about Dover, and " were employed by them, a diſcovery was made " of a conſtant intercourſe they were in with Ca- " lais, under Harley's protection. They often " went over with boats full of wool, and brought " back brandy, though both the import and ex- " port were ſeverely prohibited. They and thoſe " who belonged to the boats carried over by " them, were well treated on the French ſide at " the governor's houſe, or at the commiſſary's; " they were kept there till their letters were ſent " to Paris, and till returns could be brought " back, and were all the while upon free coſt. " The order that was conſtantly given them was, " that if an Engliſh or Dutch ſhip came up with " them, they ſhould caſt their letters into the ſea, " but that they ſhould not do it when French " ſhips came up with them; ſo they were looked " on by all on that coaſt, as the ſpies of France. " They uſed to get what information they could " both of merchant-ſhips, and of the ſhips of " war that lay in the Downs, and upon that they " uſually went over, and it happened that ſoon " after ſome of thoſe ſhips were taken. Theſe " men, as they were papiſts, ſo they behaved " themſelves inſolently, and boaſted much of " their power and credit.

" Complaints had been often made of them, " but they were always protected; nor did it ap- " pear that they ever brought any information of " importance to Harley but once, when, accord- " ing to what they ſwore, they told him, that " Fourbin was gone from Dunkirk, to lie in

" wait for the Ruſſia fleet; which proved to be " true; he both went to watch for them, and he " took a great part of the fleet. Yet though this " was the ſingle piece of intelligence that they " ever brought, Harley took ſo little notice of " it, that he gave no advertiſement to the admi- " ralty concerning it. This particular excepted, " they only brought over common news, and " the Paris Gazetteer. Theſe examinations laſt- " ed for ſome weeks: when they were ended, a " full report was made of them to the houſe of " lords, and they ordered the whole report, with " all the examinations, to be laid before the " queen."

Gregg was convicted on the ſtatute of Edward the third, which declares it high treaſon " to ad- " here to the king's enemies, or to give them aid " either within or without the realm."

Soon after this conviction both houſes of parliament petitioned the queen that he might be executed; and he was accordingly hanged at Tyburn, with Morgridge, on the 28th of April, 1708.

At the place of execution Gregg delivered a paper to the ſheriffs of London and Middleſex, in which he acknowledged the juſtice of his ſentence, declared his ſincere repentance of all his ſins, particularly that lately committed againſt the queen, whoſe forgiveneſs he devoutly implored.

He likewiſe expreſſed his wiſh to make all poſſible reparation for the injuries he had done; begged pardon, in a particular manner, of Mr. Secretary Harley, and teſtified the perfect innocence of that gentleman, declaring that he was no way privy, directly or indirectly, to his writing to France. He profeſſed that he died an unwor-

unworthy member of the proteſtant church; and that the want of money to ſupply his extravagancies had tempted him to commit the fatal crime which coſt him his life.

Gregg's ruling paſſion appears to have been ambition; but this was ſo blended with a love of inordinate pleaſures, that he was induced to have recourſe to the moſt unwarrantable practices to ſupply his extravagancies. In both his public ſituations he was in the regular way to have advanced himſelf in the ſtate: and prudence, vigilance, caution, and a ſtrict adherence to the great rule of right, would, in all human probability, have gratified the favourite wiſh of his heart: but permitting himſelf to be ſeduced by the violence of his own paſſions, he deviated from the path of honour, and became an object of public puniſhment, and public deteſtation.

He acted, likewiſe, againſt his own principles; for while he was correſponding with the enemy, and taking meaſures to ſubvert the government, he had no predilection in favour of the pretender. On the contrary, he declared, while he was under ſentence of death, that "he never thought he had "any right to the throne of theſe realms."

How ſtrangely prepoſterous, then, was the conduct of this man! From his untimely fate may youth be taught that the only road to ſubſtantial honour and happineſs, is through the path of virtue!

The youth who, led by wiſdom's guiding hand,
Seeks virtue's temple, and her law reveres,
He, he alone, in honour's dome ſhall ſtand,
Crown'd with rewards, and rais'd above his peers:
Th' hiſtorian's annals ſhall record his name,
And give his virtues to immortal fame!

Narrative of the Caſe and Conviction of DEBORAH CHURCHILL, who was executed for Murder.

THE woman whoſe fate gives riſe to this narrative was born about the year 1678, in a village near Norwich. She had ſeveral children by her huſband, Mr. Churchill, but her temper not being calculated to afford him domeſtic happineſs, he repined at his ſituation, and drank himſelf to death.

After this event ſhe came to London, and being much too idle and too proud to think of earning a ſubſiſtence by her induſtry, ſhe ran conſiderably in debt; and in order to extricate herſelf from her incumbrances, had recourſe to a method which was formerly as common as it is unjuſt. Going to a public-houſe in Holborn, ſhe ſaw a ſoldier, and aſked if he would marry her. The man immediately anſwered in the affirmative, on which they went in a coach to the Fleet, where the nuptial knot was inſtantly tied.

Mrs. Churchill (for we know her by no other name) having obtained a certificate of her marriage, enticed her huſband to drink till he was perfectly intoxicated, and then gave him the ſlip, happy in this contrivance to ſcreen herſelf from an arreſt.

Some time after this affair ſhe cohabited with a young fellow named Hunt, with whom ſhe lived more than ſix years. Hunt appears to have been a youth of a rakiſh diſpoſition. He behaved very ill to this unhappy woman, who, however, loved him to diſtraction; and at length forfeited her life in conſequence of the regard that ſhe had for him.

It happened on a night when Hunt and one of his aſſociates were returning from the Theatre, in company with Mrs. Churchill, that a quarrel aroſe between the men, who immediately drew their ſwords: while Mrs. Churchill, anxious for the ſafety of Hunt, interpoſed, and kept his antagoniſt at a diſtance, in conſequence of which he received a wound, of which he died almoſt immediately.

The murder was no ſooner committed than Hunt effected his eſcape, and, eluding his purſuers, arrived ſafely in Holland; but Mrs. Churchill was apprehended on the ſpot, and being taken before a magiſtrate, was committed to Newgate.

At the ſeſſions held at the Old-Bailey, in November, 1708, ſhe was indicted as an accomplice on the act of the firſt year of king James the firſt, called the ſtatute of ſtabbing, by which it is enacted, that "If any one ſtabs another, who "hath not at that time a weapon drawn, or hath "not firſt ſtricken, the party who ſtabs is deemed "guilty of murder, if the perſon ſtabbed die "within ſix months afterwards."

Mrs. Churchill being convicted, ſhe pleaded her being with child, in bar to her execution; and a jury of matrons being impannelled, declared that they were ignorant whether ſhe was with child or not. Hereupon the court, willing to allow all reaſonable time in a caſe of this nature, reſpited judgment for ſix months, at the end of which time ſhe received ſentence of death, as there was no appearance of her being with child.

Her behaviour was extremely penitent: but ſhe denied her guilt to the laſt moment of her life, having no conception that ſhe had committed murder, becauſe ſhe did not herſelf ſtab the deceaſed.

She was hanged at Tyburn, on the 17th of December, 1708.

From the fatal end of this woman we may gather the following leſſons of inſtruction. Her unhappy temper induced her firſt huſband to have recourſe to ſtrong liquors, which killed him. Hence let married women learn to keep a guard on their tempers, and always to meet their huſbands with ſmiles of complacency and good-nature. Marriage is either a heaven or a hell upon earth, according to the behaviour of the parties towards each other.

Mrs. Churchill's attachment to Hunt, is a ſtrong proof of the capriciouſneſs of the female mind; but ſhe is only one inſtance among thouſands of a woman proving a bad wife, and entertaining an affection for a man no way worthy her regard. We wiſh, for the honour of the fair ſex, that theſe inſtances may daily decreaſe; that female virtue may triumph through the land, and that every departure from it may be deemed as criminal in the eyes of the ſex in general, as it undoubtedly is in the ſight of heaven. It ſhould be ſeriouſly remembered by every woman, that "marriage is honourable, and the bed undefiled."

Account of the Caſe of CHRISTOPHER SLAUGHTERFORD, who was hanged for the Murder of JANE YOUNG.

THIS unfortunate man was the ſon of a miller at Weſtbury-Green, in Surry, who apprenticed him at Godalmin, and when his time was expired, he lived in ſeveral ſituations, and afterwards took a malthouſe at Shalford, when his

his aunt became his houſe-keeper, and he acquired a moderate ſum of money by his induſtry.

He now paid his addreſſes to Jane Young, and it was generally ſuppoſed he intended to marry her. The laſt time he was ſeen in her company was on the evening of the 5th of October, 1708, from which day ſhe was not heard of for a conſiderable time, on which ſuſpicions aroſe that Slaughterford had murdered her.

About a month afterwards the body of the unfortunate girl was found in a pond, with ſeveral marks of violence on it; and the public ſuſpicion being ſtill fixed on Slaughterford, he voluntarily ſurrendered himſelf to two juſtices of the peace, who directed that he ſhould be diſcharged: but as he was ſtill accuſed by his neighbours, he went to a third magiſtrate, who committed him to the Marſhalſea Priſon, in conſequence of which he was tried at the next aſſizes at Kingſton, and acquitted.

The majority of his neighbours, however, ſtill inſiſted that he was guilty, and prevailed on the relations of the deceaſed to bring an appeal * for a new trial; and many perſons ſubſcribed towards the expence of it, as the father of Jane Young was in indigent circumſtances.

During the next term he was tried by a Surry jury, in the Court of Queen's-Bench, before Lord Chief Juſtice Holt, the appeal being lodged in the name of Henry Young, brother, and heir to the deceaſed.

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* The bringing an appeal, after an acquittal on a charge of murder, is extremely uncommon; and it ought to be done with the utmoſt caution, becauſe it is held to be found law, that, after conviction on an appeal, the king has no power to pardon.

The evidence given on this ſecond trial was in ſubſtance the ſame as on the firſt; yet ſo different were the ſentiments of the two juries, that Slaughterford was now found guilty, and received ſentence of death. It may be proper to mention the heads of ſome of the depoſitions, that the reader may judge of the propriety of the verdict.

Elizabeth Chapman, the miſtreſs of Jane Young, depoſed, that when the young woman left her ſervice, ſhe ſaid ſhe was going to be married to the priſoner, that ſhe had purchaſed new cloaths on the occaſion, and declared ſhe was to meet him on the Sunday following. That this deponent ſome time afterwards enquired after Jane Young, and aſking if ſhe was married, was informed that ſhe had been ſeen in the company of Slaughterford, but no one could tell what was become of her ſince, and that he himſelf pretended he knew nothing of her, but thought ſhe had been at home with Mrs. Chapman; which induced this deponent to believe that ſome miſchief had befallen her.

Other witneſſes proved that Jane Young was in company with the priſoner, on the night that the murder was committed; and one man ſwore that, at three in the morning he met a man and a woman on a common, about a quarter of a mile from the place where the body was found; that the man wore light-coloured cloaths (as it was proved the priſoner had done the preceding day;) and that ſoon after he paſſed them he heard a ſhrieking, like the voice of a woman.

It was ſworn by a woman that, after the deceaſed was miſſing, ſhe aſked Slaughterford what was become of his whore; to which he replied, "I have put her off: do you know of any girl

"that

" that has any money your way? I have got the " way of putting them off now."

Another woman depoſed, that before the diſcovery of the murder, ſhe ſaid to Mr. Slaughterford, " What if Jane Young ſhould lay ſuch a " child to you as mine is here?" at which he ſighed, and ſaid, " It is now impoſſible:" and cried till the tears ran down his cheeks.

On the contrary, the aunt of Mr. Slaughterford, and a young lad who lived in the houſe, depoſed that the priſoner lay at home on the night that the murder was committed.

From the time of conviction to the very hour of his death, Slaughterford ſolemnly declared his innocence; and though viſited by ſeveral divines, who urged him, by all poſſible arguments, to confeſs the fact, yet he ſtill perſiſted that he was not guilty. He was reſpited from the Wedneſday till Saturday, in which interim he deſired to ſee Mr. Woodroff, a miniſter of Guildford; from which it was thought he would make a confeſſion; but what he ſaid to him tended only to confirm all he had before aſſerted.

He was hanged at Guildford on the 9th of July 1709, and, as ſoon as the executioner had tied him up, threw himſelf off, having firſt delivered to the ſheriff a paper containing the following ſolemn declaration:

Guildford, July 9, 1709.

" I being brought here to die, according to " the ſentence paſſed upon me at the Queen's " Bench Bar, for a crime of which I am wholly " innocent, thought myſelf obliged to let the " world know, that they may not reflect on my " friends and relations, whom I have left behind " me much troubled for my fatal end, that I

" know nothing of the death of Mrs. Jane Young,
" nor how ſhe came by her death, directly or in-
" directly, though ſome have pleaſed to caſt re-
" flections on my aunt. However, I freely for-
" give all my enemies, and pray to God to give
" them a due ſenſe of their errors, and in his
" due time to bring the truth to light. In the
" mean time I beg every one to forbear reflect-
" ing on my dear mother, or any of my relations,
" for my unjuſt and unhappy fall, ſince what I
" have here ſet down is truth, and nothing but
" the truth, as I expect ſalvation at the hands of
" Almighty God: but I am heartily ſorry that I
" ſhould be the cauſe of perſuading her to leave
" her dame, which is all that troubles me. As
" witneſs my hand, this 9th day of July."

This caſe of Slaughterford is of a very extraordinary nature. We ſee that he ſurrendered himſelf to the juſtices when he might have ran away, and common ſenſe tells us that a murderer would endeavour to make his eſcape; and we find him a ſecond time ſurrendering himſelf, as if anxious to wipe away the ſtain on his character. We find him tried by a jury of his countrymen, and acquitted; then again tried, on an appeal, by another jury of his neighbours, found guilty, condemned, and executed. Some of the depoſitions againſt him ſeem very ſtriking, and the teſtimony in his favour is equally clear. There appears nothing in the former part of his life to impeach his character: there is no proof of any animoſity between him and the party murdered; he is viſited, while under ſentence of death, by a number of Divines; yet he dies with the moſt ſacred averment of his innocence.

What ſhall we ſay to all this? He was evidently convicted on circumſtances only, ſtrong as

thoſe circumſtances appeared; and there have been many inſtances of innocent people ſuffering on circumſtantial evidence. Charity, then, will incline one to believe that this man was innocent, and that his life fell a ſacrifice to the prejudices, perhaps laudable prejudices, of his neighbours.

We have no right to cenſure the conduct of the jury that acquitted, or of that which condemned him. Human teſtimony is doubtful, and human judges are fallible! But we ſhould be taught one important leſſon from the fate of this unhappy man. We ſhould learn to reverence the decrees of that Providence which is above our finite comprehenſion, and to admire the juſtice of that God whoſe "ways are paſt finding out."

Let the picture before us teach us the certainty of a future ſtate, when all miſts ſhall be cleared from our eyes, and "hidden things ſhall be "made plain!"

Particulars reſpecting GRACE TRIPP, who was hanged for Murder.

GRACE TRIPP was a native of Barton in Lincolnſhire, and after living as a ſervant at a gentleman's houſe in the country, ſhe came to London, and having been in a reputable family ſome time, ſhe procured a place in the houſe of lord Torrington.

While ſhe was in this laſt ſervice ſhe got acquainted with a man named Peters, who perſuaded her to be concerned in robbing lord Torrington's houſe, promiſing to marry her as ſoon as the fact ſhould be perpetrated. Hereupon it

was concerted between them, that ſhe ſhould let Peters into the houſe in the night, and that they ſhould join in ſtealing and carrying off the plate.

Accordingly, the villain was admitted at the appointed time, when all of the family, except the houſekeeper, were out of town: but this houſekeeper hearing a noiſe, came into the room juſt as they had packed up the plate; on which Peters ſeized her, and cut her throat, while Tripp held the candle. This being done, they ſearched the pockets of the deceaſed, in which they found about thirty guineas, with which, and the plate, they haſtily decamped, leaving the ſtreet door open.

This horrid murder and robbery became the general ſubject of converſation, and no ſteps were left unattempted in order to apprehend the offenders, and they were taken in a few days, when, for the ſake of public juſtice, Peters was admitted an evidence for the crown.

In conſequence of his evidence, and many corroborating circumſtances, ſhe was convicted, ſentenced to die, and executed at Tyburn, on the 17th of March, 1710, at the age of 19 years.

While ſhe lay under ſentence of death ſhe entertained an idea that ſhe ought not to ſuffer, becauſe ſhe did not actually commit the murder with her own hands, but only ſtood by while the deed was perpetrated. She confeſſed that an ambition of being deemed a fine lady prevailed on her to admit Peters into the houſe, as ſhe thought the ſtolen effects would produce ſufficient to dignify her with that title.

From the fate of this unhappy, deluded girl, two or three reflections naturally occur, not unworthy the notice of the public. In the firſt place, families that go out of town for the ſummer ſhould never

never leave their plate in the care of one or two ſervants, particularly of the female ſex; for this circumſtance is at once an encouragement to robbers, and a temptation to the ſervants themſelves to become diſhoneſt.

The admiſſion of Peters an evidence againſt the girl, though he was clearly an offender of the firſt magnitude, ſhould teach young people in general the danger of making unlawful connections; and the folly of truſting to the fidelity of a brother thief. In this particular caſe it was neceſſary that one of the parties ſhould be an evidence, in order to convict the other; and Peters was undoubtedly pitched upon, to teach ſervants what an enormous crime it is to betray the truſt repoſed in them by their maſters. We have ſeldom an inſtance of a ſervant convicted of robbing his or her maſter but they are ſeverely puniſhed; and indeed it is proper ſuch convicts ſhould undergo the utmoſt rigour of the law.

The folly of this young woman, in liſtening to the addreſſes of a man who perſuaded her to rob her maſter, is truly aſtoniſhing! From her ſad example let all young women be taught, that there is no proſpect of that perſon making a good huſband, who is not firſt of all an HONEST MAN. Let them remember, that "the fear of the Lord "is the beginning of wiſdom."

Narrative of the Caſes of DANIEL DAMAREE, GEORGE PURCHASE, and FRANCIS WILLIS, who were tried for High-Treaſon.

WHEN the whig miniſtry of queen Anne were turned out of, or, in the modern phraſe, had reſigned their places, the tory miniſtry

niſtry who ſucceeded them encouraged a young divine named Henry Sacheverell to enflame the paſſions of the public by preaching againſt the ſettlement made at the revolution, and inculcating all thoſe doctrines which were then held as the favourite tenets of what was called the high church party. Sacheverell was a man of abilities, and eminently poſſeſſed of thoſe kind of talents which are calculated to inſpire ſuch ſentiments as the preacher wiſhes his auditors to poſſeſs.

It is well known to the public in general that Dr. Sacheverell's diſcourſes tended to inſtigate the people againſt the houſe of Hanover, and to inſinuate the right of the pretender to the throne of theſe realms. This cauſed ſuch a general commotion that it became neceſſary to bring him to a trial in ſome way; and contrary to all former practice reſpecting a man of his rank, he was tried before the houſe of peers, and being convicted, was ſilenced for three years.

However, in conſequence of his inſinuations, the paſſions of the populace were ſo excited, that they almoſt adored him as a prophet; and ſome of them were led to commit thoſe outrages which gave riſe to the following trials.

Meſſieurs Bradbury and Burgeſs, two diſſenting miniſters, having made themſelves conſpicuous by preaching in behalf of the revolution ſettlement, and freedom of ſentiment in matters of religion, they became the immediate objects of the reſentment of the mob. What aroſe in conſequence hereof will appear from the following abſtract of the trials of the criminals in queſtion.

On the 19th of April, 1710, Daniel Damaree was indicted for being concerned with a multitude of men, to the number of five hundred, armed

armed with ſwords and clubs, to levy war againſt the queen.

A gentleman depoſed, that "going through "the Temple, he ſaw ſome thouſands of people, "who had attended Dr. Sacheverell from Weſt-"minſter-Hall: that ſome of them ſaid they "would pull down Dr. Burgeſs's meeting-houſe "that night:" Others differed as to the time of doing it, but all agreed on the act, and the meeting-houſe was demoliſhed on the following night.

Captain Orril ſwore that on the firſt of March, hearing that "the mob had pulled down Dr. "Burgeſs's meeting-houſe, he reſolved to go "among them, to do what ſervice he could to "government, by making diſcoveries."

The captain going to Mr. Bradbury's meeting, found the people plundering it, who obliged him to pull off his hat. After this he went to Lincoln's-Inn-Fields, where he ſaw a bonfire made of ſome of the materials of Dr. Burgeſs's meeting-houſe, and ſaw the priſoner, who twirled his hat, and ſaid "D—n it, I will lead you on; G—d "d—n me, we will have all the meeting-houſes "down; high church and Sacheverell, huzza!"

Another evidence proved that the priſoner headed part of the mob, ſome of whom propoſed to go to the meeting-houſe in Wild-ſtreet; but this was objected to by others, who recommended going to Drury-Lane, ſaying "that meeting-"houſe was worth ten of that in Wild-ſtreet."

Joſeph Collier ſwore that he ſaw the priſoner carry a braſs ſconce from Dr. Burgeſs's meeting-houſe, and throw it into the fire in Lincoln's-Inn-Fields, huzzaing, and crying "High church and "Sacheverell." There was other evidence to prove the concern that the priſoner had in theſe illegal acts; and ſeveral perſons appeared in his behalf;

behalf; but as in their teſtimony they contradicted each other, the jury could not credit their evidence; but brought in a ſpecial verdict.

GEORGE PURCHASE was indicted for levying war againſt the queen, &c. in the ſame manner that Damaree had been. On this trial captain Orril depoſed, that after ſeeing Dr. Burgeſs's meeting-houſe demoliſhed, and a fire made in Lincoln's-Inn-Fields with ſome of the materials thereof, he met a party of the guards, whom he directed to go to Drury-Lane, where a bonfire was made of the pews, and other utenſils; and that there was a great mob, which was diſperſed by the guards: that the priſoner was very active, puſhing at the breaſts of the horſes with a drawn ſword: that this evidence aſked him what he meant, telling him that in oppoſing the guard he oppoſed the queen, and would have perſuaded him to put up his ſword, and go home; but inſtead of taking this advice, he replied, "D—n "you, who are you? for High-Church and Sa- "cheverell or no? I am, G—d d——n them all." meaning the guards, "for I am as good a man "as any of them all:" that he then called to the mob "Come on, come on boys; I'll lead you "on, I am for High-Church and Sacheverell, "and I'll loſe my life in the cauſe."

Captain Orril farther depoſed, that after this the priſoner ran reſolutely with his ſword in his hand, and made a full paſs at the officer who commanded the guards; and if one of the guards had not given a ſpring and beat down his ſword, he would have run the officer through the left flank: that the priſoner now retired a little lower, and the guards had by this time diſperſed the mob, having knocked down forty or fifty of them in the action.

Richard

Richard Ruſſell, one of the guards, depoſed, that they were ordered by the ſerjeant to march into Drury-lane, and to return their bayonets and draw their ſwords; that when they came to Drury-lane, there was a bonfire with a large mob about it; that near the fire the horſe were all drawn up into one line, with their tails againſt the wall, that none of the mob might come behind: that the priſoner then ſtood in the middle of the lane, huzzaing, and came up, and would have thruſt himſelf between the horſes; but the guards beat him off with the flats of their ſwords.

The priſoner produced ſome witneſſes; but as what they ſaid did not contradict the teſtimony of the evidences againſt him, their depoſitions had no weight. The jury were ſatisfied with the proofs that had ariſen; but having a doubt reſpecting the points of law, they brought in a ſpecial verdict.

At the ſame time and place Francis Willis was tried for aſſiſting in demoliſhing the meeting-houſe of Mr. Bradbury in Fetter-lane, and burning the materials at a bonfire in Holborn; but was acquitted for want of ſufficient evidence againſt him.

The verdicts reſpecting Damaree and Purchaſe being left ſpecial, their caſes were argued in the court of King's-Bench in Weſtminſter-Hall, the following term, before the lord chief juſtice Parker and the other judges; when, though every artifice of the law was made uſe of in their behalf, they were adjudged to be guilty; in conſequence of which they received ſentence of death, and were executed at Tyburn, on the 15th of June 1710.

From the fate of theſe unhappy men we may learn the extreme folly of the lower orders of people intereſting themſelves in religious and political diſputes. Theſe offenders were watermen to the queen; but their loyalty to their ſovereign and a proper regard to themſelves, equally called on them to diſcharge the duties of their ſtation with punctuality, and to leave the management of the church and ſtate to thoſe to whom they immediately belonged.

It is well known that, towards the cloſe of the reign of queen Anne, political diſputes were carried to a very unuſual height in this kingdom. The body of the people were divided into two great factions, known by the names of High Church and Low Church: but though the church was the word, religion was almoſt out of the queſtion; and the principal object of diſpute was of a political kind. The queſtion was, whether the houſe of HANOVER, or the family of STUART ſhould ſway the ſceptre of theſe kingdoms. But it is aſtoniſhing to think that, even at that period, any ſon of the church of England could be ſo deluded as to think that a catholic prince, of an obnoxious family, proſcribed by the laws of the land, could be a proper ſovereign for a proteſtant people. The ſuppoſition carries abſurdity in the face of it; yet ſuch was the violence of the paſſions of the people, that the pretender had nearly half as many friends in the kingdom as the rightful heir to the throne!

With regard to the malefactors in queſtion, their offence was of the moſt atrocious nature. Every man has an equal right to worſhip God according to the dictates of his own conſcience. It was therefore in a high degree criminal to demoliſh

moliſh the meeting-houſes of the diſſenting miniſters. We ſhould have no more ſpleen againſt a man for differing from us in religious ſentiments, than for being taller, or ſhorter, or of a different complection from ourſelves. It was a wiſe ſaying of a celebrated writer, that "I would "no more quarrel with a man for his differing in "ſentiments from me, than I would for the co-"lour of his eye-brows."

The operations of the mind, being free by nature, ought to be allowed the moſt unlimited ſcope. A good proteſtant will not quarrel with a Roman catholic for the peculiarities of his worſhip: he will only pity him for thoſe parts of it which he thinks abſurd, and endeavour to regulate his own worſhip by what he deems a purer ſtandard.

Upon the whole, the fate of theſe malefactors ought to teach us obedience to our ſuperiors, love to our neighbours, and duty to our God. There can be no peace of mind expected by thoſe who do not live in the diſcharge of their duty; while thoſe who perform it may reaſonably hope for the ſerene comforts of a good conſcience in this world, and conſole themſelves with the hope of immortal happineſs in the next.

The Caſe of RICHARD THORNHILL, Eſq. who was tried for the Murder of Sir CHOLMONDELEY DEERING in a Duel, and found guilty of Manſlaughter.

SIR CHOLMONDELEY DEERING and Mr. Thornhill were intimate acquaintance, and had dined together, on the 7th of

April, 1711, in company of ſeveral other gentlemen, at the Toy at Hampton-Court, where a quarrel aroſe which occaſioned the unhappy cataſtrophe that afterwards happened.

During the quarrel Sir Cholmondeley ſtruck Mr. Thornhill, and a ſcuffle enſuing, the wainſcot of the room broke down, and Thornhill falling, the other ſtamped on him, and beat out ſome of his teeth. The company now interpoſing, Sir Cholmondeley, convinced that he had acted improperly, declared that he was willing to aſk pardon: but Mr. Thornhill ſaid that aſking pardon was not a proper retaliation for the injury that he had received; adding, "Sir Cholmonde-"ley, you know where to find me." Soon after this the company broke up, and the priſoners went home in different coaches, without any farther ſteps being taken towards their reconciliation.

On the 9th of April Sir Cholmondeley went to the Coffee-houſe at Kenſington, and aſked for Mr. Thornhill, who not being there, he went to his lodgings, and the ſervant ſhewed him to the dining-room, to which he aſcended with a brace of piſtols in his hands, and ſoon afterwards Mr. Thornhill coming to him, aſked him if he would drink tea, which he declined, but drank a glaſs of ſmall beer.

After this the gentlemen ordered a hackney-coach, in which they went to Tothill-Fields, and there advanced towards each other in a reſolute manner, and fired their piſtols almoſt in the ſame moment.

Sir Cholmondeley being mortally wounded, fell to the ground; and Mr. Thornhill, after lamenting the unhappy cataſtrophe, was going away, when a perſon ſtopped him, told him he had been guilty of murder, and took him before a juſ-

a juſtice of the peace, who committed him to priſon.

On the 18th of May, 1711, Richard Thornhill, Eſq. was indicted at the Old-Bailey ſeſſions for this murder. In the courſe of the trial the above-recited facts were proved, and a letter was produced, of which the following is a copy.

SIR, April 8th, 1711.

" I ſhall be able to go abroad to-morrow morn-
" ing, and deſire you will give me a meeting with
" your ſword and piſtols, which I inſiſt on. The
" worthy gentleman who brings you this, will
" concert with you the time and place. I think
" Tothill-fields will do well; Hyde-Park will
" not, at this time of the year, being full of
" company.

I am,

Your humble Servant,

RICHARD THORNHILL.

Mr. Thornhill's ſervant ſwore that he believed this letter to be his maſter's hand-writing; but Mr. Thornhill hoped the jury would not pay any regard to this teſtimony, as the boy had acknowledged in court that he never ſaw him write.

Mr. Thornhill called ſeveral witneſſes to prove how ill he had been uſed by Sir Cholmondeley: that he had languiſhed ſome time of the wounds he had received, during which he could take no other ſuſtenance than liquids, and that his life was in imminent danger.

Several perſons of diſtinction teſtified that Mr. Thornhill was of a peaceable diſpoſition, and that, on the contrary, the deceaſed was of a remarkably quarrelſome temper. On behalf of Mr.

Mr. Thornhill it was farther depoſed, that Sir Cholmondeley being aſked if he came by his hurt through unfair uſage, he replied "No: poor "Thornhill! I am ſorry for him: this misfor- "tune was my own fault, and of my own ſeek- "ing: I heartily forgive him, and deſire you "all to take notice of it, that it may be of ſome "ſervice to him; and that one misfortune may "not occaſion another."

The jury acquitted Mr. Thornhill of the murder, but found him guilty of manſlaughter, in conſequence of which he was burnt in the hand.

Of all the vices which diſgrace our age and nation that of duelling is one of the moſt ridiculous, abſurd, and criminal. Ridiculous, as it is a compliance with a cuſtom that would plead faſhion in violation of the laws of our country: Abſurd, as it produces nó teſt by which to determine on the merits of the point in diſpute; for the aggrieved is equally liable to fall with the aggreſſor; and criminal, (criminal indeed in the higheſt degree!) as it ariſes from pre-determined murder on each ſide. Gentlemen talk of the dignity of honour, and the ſacredneſs of character, without reflecting that there can be no honour in deliberate murder, no purity of character in a murderer!

The man who ſends a challenge to another, does but ſay, in other words, "I am a profeſſed "murderer. I mean to ſend you into the other "world, with all your imperfections on your "head.—But I am a man of honour—though I "will not take a purſe, I will cut a throat. I "will do every thing in my power to deprive you "of life, and to make your friends and relations "wretched for life. If I fall by your hands, my "friends will be equally miſerable:—but no "matter

" matter—the laws of honour demand that we
" ſhould be murderers, and we are both too wiſe
" to obey the laws of our God."

Horrid practice! diſgraceful to our country, and equally contrary to all Divine and human inſtitutions!—It is to be hoped the time will come when the legiſlature ſhall decree that every man who is baſe enough to ſend a challenge ſhall be doomed to ſuffer death as a murderer. Let no fear be entertained that this can derogate from our national character of genuine courage. Nothing is more true than the obſervation of the poet, that

Cowards are cruel, but the brave
Love mercy, and delight to ſave.

Narrative of the Caſe of ELIZABETH MASON, who was hanged for poiſoning her Miſtreſs.

ELIZABETH MASON was born at Melton-Mowbray, in Leiceſterſhire, and, while very young, was conveyed by her friends to Sutton, near Peterborough, in Northamptonſhire; from whence, at the age of ſeven years, ſhe was brought to London by Mrs. Scoles, who told her ſhe was her godmother; and with this lady and her ſiſter, Mrs. Cholwell, ſhe lived till ſhe was apprehended for the commiſſion of the crime for which her life paid the forfeit.

This girl, who was employed in houſe-hold work, having conceived an idea that ſhe ſhould poſſeſs the fortune of her miſtreſſes, on their death, came to the horrid reſolution of removing them by poiſon.

On

On Thurſday in the Eaſter-week, Maſon being ſent of an errand, ſhe went to a druggiſt's ſhop, were ſhe bought a quantity of yellow arſenick, on the pretence that it was to kill rats. On the following morning ſhe mixed this poiſon with ſome coffee, of which Mrs. Scoles drank, and ſoon afterwards finding herſelf extremely ill, ſaid her end was approaching, and expired the next day in great agonies.

Mrs. Cholwell receiving no injury from what little coffee ſhe drank, the girl determined to renew her attempt to poiſon her; in conſequence of which ſhe went again to the ſame ſhop about a fortnight afterwards, and bought a ſecond quantity of arſenick, which ſhe put into ſome water-gruel prepared for Mrs. Cholwell's breakfaſt on the following morning.

As it happened that the gruel was too hot, the lady put it aſide ſome time to cool, during which time moſt of the arſenick ſunk to the bottom. Having drank ſome of it, ſhe found herſelf very ill; and obſerving the ſediment at the bottom of the baſon, ſhe ſent for her apothecary, who gave her a large quantity of oil to drink, by the help of which the poiſon was expelled.

Unfavourable ſuſpicions now ariſing againſt Elizabeth Maſon, ſhe was taken into cuſtody, and being carried before two juſtices of the peace, on the 30th of April, ſhe confeſſed the whole of her guilt, in conſequence of which ſhe was committed to Newgate.

On the 6th of June 1712, ſhe was indicted for the murder of Jane Scoles, by mixing yellow arſenick with her coffee; and pleading guilty to the indictment, ſhe received ſentence of death, in conſequence of which ſhe was executed at Tyburn, on the 18th of June 1712.

While

While ſhe lay under ſentence of death the ordinary of Newgate aſked if ſhe had any lover, or other perſon, who had tempted her to the commiſſion of the crime: to which ſhe anſwered in the negative; but owned that ſhe had frequently defrauded her miſtreſſes of money, and then told lies to conceal the depredations of which ſhe had been guilty.

At the time of her execution ſhe warned other young people to beware of crimes ſimilar to thoſe which had brought her to that fatal end, and confeſſed the juſtice of the ſentence which made her a public example.

Young people ſhould be taught, from the deplorable fate of this unhappy girl, to learn a due obedience to their ſuperiors in general; and particularly to guard againſt the firſt impulſes of pride, ambition and avarice: for it was the expectation of poſſeſſing the fortune of her miſtreſſes at their death, that tempted this young creature to think of removing them by the commiſſion of the horrid ſin of murder!

In the diſcovery of this affair the intervention of Providence obviouſly appears. If the gruel prepared for Mrs. Cholwell had not been too hot for uſe, ſhe would probably have eaten freely of it, and, in conſequence, have loſt her life.

In the caſe of this malefactor we ſee, in a ſtriking light, the fatal conſequences of lying; for if, after ſhe had firſt defrauded her miſtreſſes, ſhe had poſſeſſed grace ſufficient to have acknowledged her crime, ſhe would probably have been forgiven, and her repentance would have ſecured her peace of mind during her future life: but the concealing her faults by lying naturally led her to the commiſſion of greater crimes, which

ended in her final deſtruction. Of all crimes, lying is one of the meaneſt; and ought to be ſtudiouſly avoided by thoſe who wiſh to be happy in this world or the next. Very true is the obſervation of the poet;

But lyars we can never truſt,
Tho' they ſhould ſpeak the thing that's true;
And he that does one fault at firſt,
And lyes to hide it, makes it two.

Particulars reſpecting ELIZABETH CHIVERS, who was hanged for murdering her Baſtard-Child.

AT the ſeſſions held at the Old Bailey, in the month of July, 1712, Elizabeth Chivers was indicted for the wilfull murder of her female baſtard-child, Elizabeth Ward, by drowning it in a pond; and pleading guilty, ſhe received ſentence of death, and was executed at Tyburn, on the firſt of Auguſt following.

This unhappy woman was a native of Spitalfields, but lived at Stepney at the time of the commiſſion of the murder. The account ſhe gave of herſelf after ſhe was under ſentence of death was as follows: She ſaid that her father dying while ſhe was very young, left her in indigent circumſtances, which obliged her to go to ſervice when ſhe was only fourteen years of age; that ſhe lived in ſeveral reputable families, in which her conduct was deemed irreproachable.

When ſhe arrived at almoſt the age of thirty years, ſhe lived with one Mr. Ward, an attorney, who prevailed on her to lie with him, in conſequence of which ſhe bore the child which ſhe afterwards murdered.

Find-

Finding herſelf pregnant, ſhe removed from Mr. Ward's to another family, where ſhe remained about ſix weeks, and then took private lodgings, in which ſhe was delivered of a girl, who was baptized by the name of Elizabeth Ward. The father, agreeable to his promiſe, provided for the mother and child for about three months, when Mrs. Ward, diſcovering her habitation, expoſed her in the neighbourhood, ſo that ſhe was aſhamed to make her appearance.

Enraged by this circumſtance, ſhe was tempted to deſtroy her child: on which ſhe took it into the fields, and threw it into a pond not far from Hackney; but ſome people near the ſpot happening to ſee what paſſed, took her into cuſtody, and carried her before a magiſtrate, who committed her to Newgate.

All the time that ſhe remained in this gloomy priſon her mind ſeemed to be tortured with the moſt agonizing pains, on account of the horrid crimes of which ſhe had been guilty; and ſhe expreſſed a ſenſe of her torments in the following ſtriking words, which ſhe ſpoke to a clergyman who attended her: "O ſir! I am loſt! I cannot "pray, I cannot repent; my ſin is too great to "be pardoned! I did commit it with deliberation and choice, and in cold blood: I was not "driven to it by neceſſity. The father had all "the while provided for me, and for the child, "and would have done ſo ſtill, had not I de"ſtroyed the child, and thereby ſought my own "deſtruction."

It is very remarkable of this woman that ſhe was near thirty years of age before ſhe was debauched, and previous to that time her character was unimpeached.—Hence let young women learn the importance of chaſtity; and conſider how very

little they have to depend on, when the character is once gone. Let men, likewiſe, be taught to reflect what a horrid crime ſeduction is; and that when once they tempt a young woman to violate her chaſtity, they are only leading her to the brink of inevitable deſtruction.

The terrors of conſcience this poor creature underwent appear to have been of the moſt dreadful kind, and afford us a ſhocking idea of the conſequences reſulting from the crime of murder. What a deplorable ſtate muſt that wretch be in, who deſpairs to ſo great a degree as to be unable to repent! May God, in his mercy, grant that none of the readers of this work may ever have occaſion to repent of a crime ſo ſhocking as murder. Nature revolts at the idea of ſo enormous an offence; but we know not to what lengths our paſſions may lead us. Let us, therefore, conſtantly pray that we may not be "led into temptation;" and, "let him that ſtandeth take heed leſt he "fall."

Account of the Trial of Colonel JOHN HAMILTON, for the Murder of CHARLES Lord MOHUN, and JAMES Duke of HAMILTON and BRANDON.

JOHN HAMILTON, Eſq. of St. Martin's in the Fields, was indicted at the ſeſſions held at the Old Bailey on the 11th of September, 1712, for the Murder of Charles Lord Mohun, Baron of Oakhampton, on the 15th of November preceding: and at the ſame time he was indicted for abetting Charles Lord Mohun, and George Macartney, Eſq. in the murder of James Duke of Hamil-

Hamilton and Brandon: and having pleaded "not guilty" to theſe indictments, the evidences proceeded to give their teſtimony in ſubſtance as follows.

Rice Williams, footman to lord Mohun, proved that his maſter having met the duke of Hamilton at the chambers of a maſter in chancery, on Thurſday the 13th of November, a miſunderſtanding aroſe between them reſpecting the teſtimony of an evidence. That when his lord came home at night, he ordered that no perſon ſhould be admitted to ſpeak with him the next morning except Mr. Macartney. That on the Saturday morning about ſeven o'clock this evidence, having ſome ſuſpicion that miſchief would enſue, went towards Hyde-Park, and ſeeing the duke of Hamilton's coach going that way, he got over the park-wall: but juſt as he arrived at the place where the duelliſts were engaged, he ſaw both the noblemen fall, and two gentlemen near them, whom he took to be the ſeconds. One of whom he knew to be Mr. Macartney, and the other (but he could not ſwear it was the priſoner) ſaid "We have made a fine piece of work of it."

The waiters at two different taverns proved that the deceaſed noblemen and their ſeconds had been at thoſe taverns: and, from what could be collected from their behaviour, it appeared that a quarrel had taken place, and that a duel was in agitation: and ſome of the duke's ſervants and other witneſſes depoſed to a variety of particulars, all which tended to the ſame concluſion.

But the evidence who ſaw moſt of the tranſaction was William Morris, a groom, who depoſed that "as he was walking his horſes towards "Hyde-Park, he followed a hackney coach with "two gentlemen in it, whom he ſaw alight by

"the

" the lodge, and walk together towards the left
" part of the ring, where they were about a
" quarter of an hour, when he ſaw two other
" gentlemen come to them; that after having
" ſaluted each other, one of them, who he is
" ſince told was the duke of Hamilton, threw off
" his cloak, and one of the other two, who he
" now underſtands was lord Mohun, his ſurtout
" coat, and all immediately drew; that the duke
" and lord puſhed at each other but a very little
" while, when the duke cloſed, and took the
" lord by the collar, who fell down and groaned,
" and the duke fell upon him: that juſt as lord
" Mohun was dropping, he ſaw him lay hold of
" the duke's ſword, but could not tell whether
" the ſword was at that time in his body; nor
" did he ſee any wound given after the cloſing,
" and was ſure lord Mohun did not ſhorten his
" ſword. He declared he did not ſee the ſeconds
" fight, but they had their ſwords in their hands,
" aſſiſting the lords."

Paul Bouſſier, a ſurgeon, ſwore that on opening the body of the duke of Hamilton he found a wound between the ſecond and third rib, which entered into the body, inclining to the right ſide, which could not be given but by ſome puſh from above.

Henry Amy, a ſurgeon, ſwore that he found the duke of Hamilton had received a wound by a puſh, which had cut the artery and ſmall tendon of his right arm; another very large one in his right leg, a ſmall one in his left leg, near the inſtep; and a fourth on his left ſide, between the ſecond and third ribs, which ran down into his body moſt forward, having pierced the ſkirt of his midriff, and gone through his caul; but that the wound in his arm cauſed his ſo ſpeedy death;

and

and that he might have lived two or three days with the wound in his breaſt, which wound could not be given but by an arm that reached over, or was above him.

He further depoſed, that he alſo viewed the lord Mohun's body, and found that he had a wound between the ſhort ribs, quite through his belly, and another about three inches deep in the upper part of his thigh; a large wound about four inches wide in his groin, a little higher, which was the cauſe of his immediate death; and another ſmall wound on his left ſide, and that the fingers of his left hand were cut.

The defence made by the priſoner was, that "the duke called him to go abroad with him, "but he knew not any thing of the matter till he "came into the field."

Some Scottiſh noblemen, and other gentlemen of rank, gave Mr. Hamilton a very advantageous character, aſſerting that he was brave, honeſt, and inoffenſive: and the jury having conſidered of the affair, gave a verdict of "manſlaughter," in conſequence of which the priſoner prayed the benefit of the ſtatute, which was allowed him.

At the time the lives of the above-mentioned noblemen were thus unfortunately ſacrificed, many perſons thought that they fell by the hands of the ſeconds: and ſome late writers on the ſubject have affected to be of the ſame opinion: but nothing appears in the written or printed accounts of the tranſaction, nor did any thing ariſe on the trial, to warrant ſo ungenerous a ſuſpicion; it is therefore but juſtice to the memory of all the parties to diſcredit ſuch inſinuations.

But here a reflection will naturally ariſe, that we hope may be of ſervice to our readers of ſuperior rank. If all duelliſts are, as common ſenſe

ſeems to intimate, MURDERERS, in what light are we to conſider their ſeconds? Certainly in no other than as acceſſaries before the fact. The law ſays, and with great juſtice, that acceſſaries in caſe of murder, ſhall be deemed principals.

With regard to the particular caſe in queſtion, if we believe the plea of the priſoner, we cannot conſider him as an acceſſary, becauſe he was ignorant of the intention of the duke.

Be this as it may, it is much to be lamented that we have not laws of force ſufficient to put an effectual ſtop to the horrid practice of duelling: a practice which had its riſe in the ferocious manners of the moſt barbarous ages, and is a diſgrace to any people that pretends to be poliſhed or refined. Honour is made the vile pretence, and murder, real or intended, is always the conſequence.

Men ought to conſider that their great Creator has entruſted them with life for more valuable purpoſes than to put it to the hazard on every frivolous occaſion. One would imagine that the reflection of a moment would teach any man in his ſenſes that the determination to ruſh into the preſence of his maker with the crime of murder on his head was ſufficient to enſure his perdition!

Happy are thoſe who have been thus tempted to embrue their hands in the blood of their fellow creatures, if they eſcape the murdering ſword or piſtol, and have time allotted them to repent of their miſdeeds: and ſurely a whole life of penitence is ſhort enough to atone for the intentional murder of a fellow-creature!

Remarkable Caſe of WILLIAM JOHNSON, and JANE HOUSDEN, who were hanged for the Murder of the Turnkey of Newgate.

WE inſert this narrative on account of its ſingularity, as it may not happen that another caſe of the kind ſhall ever occur.

William Johnſon was a native of Northamptonſhire, where he ſerved his time to a butcher, and removing to London, opened a ſhop in Newport-Market; but buſineſs not ſucceeding to his expectation, he took a houſe in Long-Acre, and commenced corn-chandler; but in this buſineſs he was likewiſe unſucceſsful, on which he ſold his ſtock in trade, and took a public-houſe near Chriſt-Church in Surry.

In the buſineſs of a victualler he was as unſucceſsful as in his former profeſſions; on which he ſailed to Gibraltar, where he was appointed a mate to one of the ſurgeons of the garriſon: ſo that he appears to have poſſeſſed a genius turned to a variety of employments.

Having ſaved ſome money at Gibraltar, he came back to his native country, where he ſoon ſpent it, and then had recourſe to the highway for a ſupply. Being apprehended in conſequence of one of his robberies, he was convicted, but received a pardon, not long before the perpetration of the murder which coſt him his life.

Johnſon had been formerly acquainted with one Jane Houſden, who had been tried and convicted of coining, but obtained a pardon. It was not long after this pardon, (which was procured by great influence,) before Houſden was again in cuſtody for a ſimilar offence. On the

day that ſhe was to be tried, and juſt as ſhe was brought down to the bar at the Old-Bailey, Johnſon called to ſee her; but Mr. Spurling, the head turnkey, telling him that he could not ſee her till her trial was ended, he inſtantly drew a piſtol, and ſhot Spurling dead on the ſpot, in the preſence of the court, and all the perſons attending to hear the trials; Mrs. Houſden, at the ſame time, encouraging him in the perpetration of this horrid murder.

The event had no ſooner happened, than the judges, thinking it unneceſſary to proceed on the trial of the woman for coining, ordered both the parties to be tried for the murder; and there being ſuch a number of witneſſes to the deed, they were almoſt immediately convicted, and received ſentence of death.

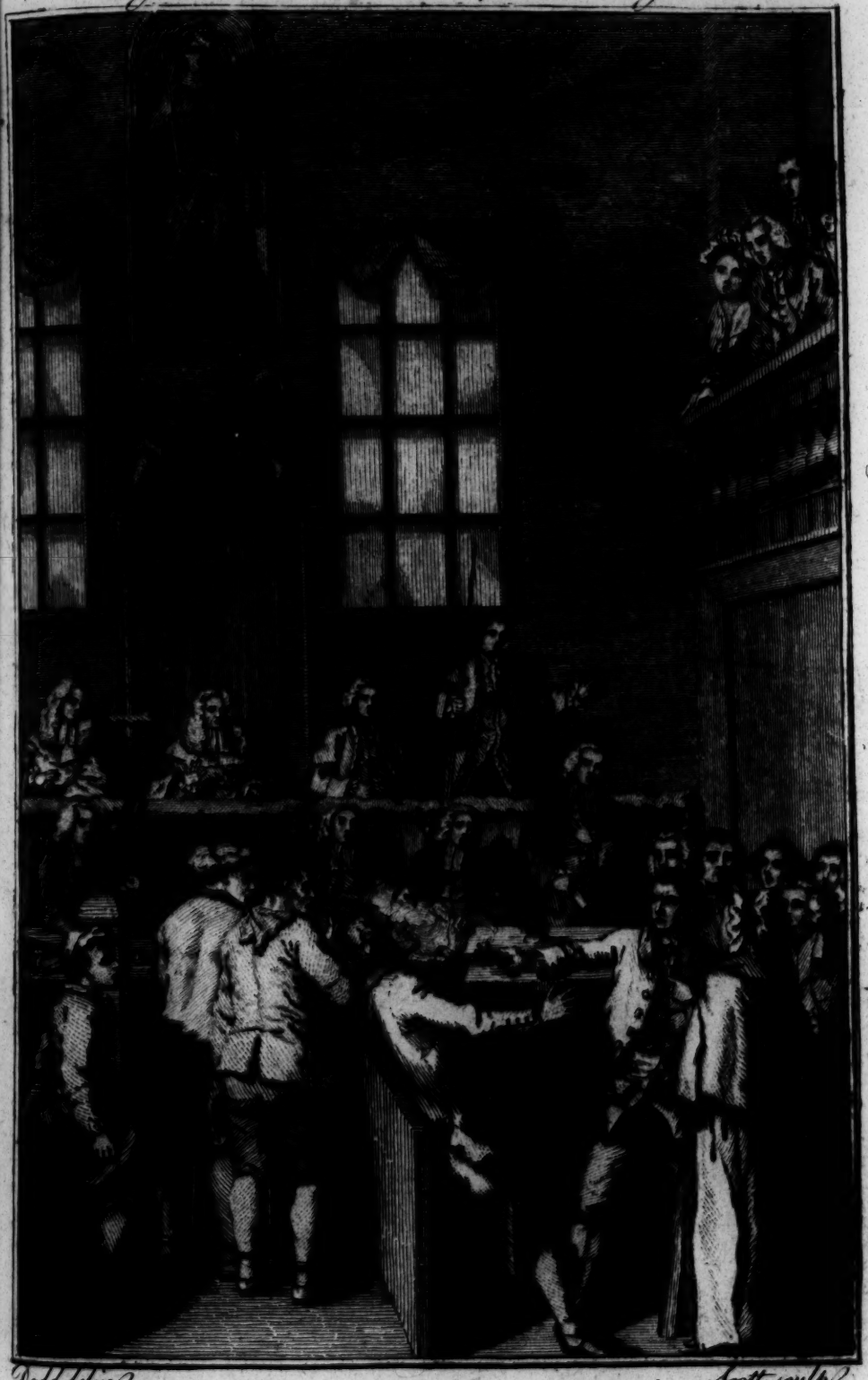
From this time to that of their execution, and even at the place of their death, they behaved as if they were wholly inſenſible of the enormity of the crime which they had committed; nay, though there were ſo many witneſſes to the fact, they had the confidence to deny it to the laſt moment of their lives; nor did they ſhew any ſigns of compunction for their former ſins.

On the 19th of September, 1712, they were executed oppoſite the ſeſſions-houſe in the Old Bailey, after which Johnſon was hanged in chains near Holloway, between Iſlington and Highgate.

There is ſomething ſo extraordinary in the caſe of theſe malefactors that one is almoſt at a loſs what judgment to form of the enormity of their guilt. Johnſon had been capitally convicted, and received a free pardon: and Houſden had experienced a like effect of the royal mercy. What then ſhall we think of the man committing a daring murder in ſuch a place, and on ſo ſolemn

an

Engraved for The Malefactor's Register.



Dodd delin. *Scott sculp.*

Wm. JOHNSON *shooting* **Mr. SPURLING**, *head Turnkey of Newgate, while Jane Housden (then going to Trial) stands by encouraging him.*



an occaſion, and of the woman, in circumſtances ſo calamitous as hers, encouraging him in the perpetration of ſo horrid a crime? A crime, that the ſlighteſt reflection would have told them muſt neceſſarily be puniſhed in an exemplary manner. To eſcape was impoſſible:—to commit the crime then, argued a folly as well as baſeneſs that is, perhaps, without example.

The turnkey was doing no more than diſcharging the duties of his office, and had not given the leaſt provocation to the parties for the horrid murder that enſued.

Their behaviour under ſentence of death evinces to what a ſhocking degree their minds muſt have been hardened; and, upon the whole, the inſtance before us affords a proof that the human heart is "corrupt above all things, and deſ-"perately wicked."

Narrative of the Caſe of RICHARD TOWN, who was executed for defrauding his Creditors under a commiſſion of Bankruptcy.

IN September, 1712, Richard Town was indicted at the Old-Bailey for withdrawing himſelf from his creditors after a commiſſion of bankrupt iſſued againſt him, and for removing and fraudulently carrying away fifteen tons of tallow, valued at 400 l. and 400 l. in money, with his debt-books, and books of accounts, with intention to defraud his creditors.

Having pleaded not guilty to the indictment, the council informed the jury that the act of parliament had expreſsly declared that "if any per-"ſon, being a bankrupt, after the month of

" April, 1707, did fraudulently conceal, em-
" bezzle, or make away with goods or money to
" the value of 20 l. he ſhould be deemed guilty
" of felony."

A number of witneſſes were now called to prove his being a regular trader, and to make it appear that he had committed an act of bankruptcy; but the principal of theſe was Mr. Hodgſon, who depoſed that being ſent after the priſoner by the commiſſioners of bankrupt, he apprehended him at Sandwich, and ſearching him by virtue of his warrant, found in his pocket twenty guineas in gold, and about five pounds ſeven ſhillings and ſixpence in ſilver; and that he had three gold rings on his fingers: that he took from him the gold, and five pounds in ſilver, and left him the odd ſilver.

Town had intended to ſail in a ſhip which was bound to Amſterdam; but being too late he went on board a packet-boat bound to Oſtend, but being taken ſea-ſick, he went to the ſide of the veſſel, and ſtooping down, dropped eight hundred guineas, which were in two bags between his coat and waiſtcoat into the ſea.

A ſtorm ariſing at ſea, the packet-boat was driven back, and obliged to put into Sandwich, in conſequence of which Town was apprehended by Hodgſon, as above-mentioned.

When Town was examined before the commiſſioners he acknowledged that he ordered Thomas Norris to carry off his books of accounts, plate, and papers of value, and likewiſe to convey away a large quantity of tallow, which he ſuppoſed was then arrived in Holland.

Now the council for Town inſiſted that, as Norris was a joint agent with him, the act of one was the act of both; and that he could not legally be con-

convicted till the other (who was then abroad) could be apprehended, and tried with him. But in order to fruſtrate this argument, it was proved that Town had ſhipped off large quantities of goods on his own account: beſides, the circumſtance of his being taken at Sandwich by Mr. Hodgſon, with more than twenty pounds of his creditors money in his poſſeſſion, was a ſufficient proof of his guilt; wherefore the jury did not heſitate on his caſe, and he received ſentence of death.

This unhappy man was a native of the county of Oxford, and for ſome time had carried on a conſiderable buſineſs as a tallow-chandler with great reputation; but it appears too evident that he had formed a deſign of defrauding his creditors; becauſe, at the time of his abſconding, he had conſiderable property in the funds, and was otherwiſe in good circumſtances.

Before his conviction he was indulged with a chamber to himſelf in the preſs-yard; but after ſentence was paſſed on him he was put into the condemned-hold, with the other priſoners: but here he catched a violent cold, which brought on a deafneſs, a diſorder to which he had been ſubject; wherefore, on complaining of this circumſtance, he was removed to his former apartments.

While under ſentence of death he refuſed to acknowledge the juſtice of his ſentence, declaring that a perſon whom he had relieved, and preſerved from ruin, had occaſioned his deſtruction. He attended the devotions of the place, declared that he forgave his enemies, and begged that God would likewiſe forgive them.

He was executed at Tyburn on the 23d of December, 1712, being exactly forty-one years

of

of age on that day: a circumſtance that he remarked to the Ordinary, on his way to the fatal tree.

Mr. Town was the firſt perſon who ſuffered on the act which made it felony for a bankrupt to conceal the value of 20l. or upwards. It is the fate of many an honeſt man to become a bankrupt, and it is but too common for the unfeeling world to brand all bankrupts with the general name of villain: but, we hope, for the honour of human nature, that this name is not deſerved once where it is applied a thouſand times.

It has been the misfortune of ſome of the worthieſt men we have ever known to become bankrupts. On the contrary, many of the moſt contemptible of the human race have been ſucceſsful traders, and, in the language of the city, have been "good men." Undoubtedly there have been fraudulent bankruptcies; but, comparatively ſpeaking, we believe very few. We have not many inſtances of traders flouriſhing in a great degree, after a bankruptcy: and what man would wiſh, if it were in his power, to meet the public contempt and deriſion, for the ſake of embezzling a few paltry hundred pounds, and this too, at the hazard of his life?

With regard to the particular inſtance before us, we ſee a ſtrong proof of the wiſdom and juſtice of Providence, in preventing this offender from making his eſcape; in the firſt place, by the ſhip being ſailed, and in the ſecond by the packet-boat being obliged to put back, through ſtreſs of weather.

Hence let all who are tempted to commit crimes of a ſimilar, or of any other, nature, learn that they can never eſcape the ſight of a juſt God, who ruleth the world in righteouſneſs.

Curious Narrative of the ſingular Caſe of Richard Noble, Attorney at Law, who ſuffered for the Murder of John Sayer, Eſq. With ſome Particulars of the Amours of Mr. Noble and Mrs. Sayer.

THERE is ſomething ſo ſingular in the caſe before us, that the reader will be glad to have the particulars of an affair that made much noiſe in the world at the time it happened, and will be remembered to future ages.

John Sayer, Eſq. was poſſeſſed of about 1000l. a year, and was lord of the Manor of Biddleſden, in Buckinghamſhire. He does not appear to have been a man of any great abilities; but was remarkable for his good nature and inoffenſive diſpoſition.

In 1699 he married Mary, the daughter of Admiral Nevil, a woman of an agreeable perſon and brilliant wit; but of ſuch an abandoned diſpoſition as to be a diſgrace to her ſex. Soon after this wedding, Colonel Saliſbury married the admiral's widow; but there was ſuch a vicious ſimilarity in the conduct of the mother and daughter, that the two huſbands had early occaſion to be diſguſted with the choice they had made.

Mr. Sayer's nuptials had not been celebrated many days before the bride took the liberty of kicking him, and hinted that ſhe would procure a lover, with whom ſhe might enjoy thoſe pleaſures not to be found with her huſband. Sayer, who was diſtractedly fond of her, bore this treatment with patience; and at the end of a twelvemonth ſhe bore him a daughter, which ſoon died: but he became ſtill more fond of her after ſhe had made

made him a father, and was continually loading her with preſents.

Mr. Sayer now took a houſe in Liſle-ſtreet, Leiceſter-fields, kept a coach, and did every thing which he thought might gratify his wife: but ſo far from being influenced by this generous conduct, ſhe declared that ſhe would never again admit him to her bed. Irritated by this treatment he went among the women of the town, in conſequence whereof he contracted a diſorder that obliged him to have the advice of a ſurgeon: and his wife ſuſpecting what had happened, he made no ſcruple to acknowledge the fact, and avow the occaſion of it.

His health, however, was ſoon re-eſtabliſhed; on which his wife voluntarily admitted him to her bed: but the conſequence was, that both the parties were ſoon afterwards indiſpoſed. As the ſurgeon who had attended Mr. Sayer was a man of character, and profeſſed himſelf ready to ſwear to the perfection of his cure, it was ſhrewdly ſuſpected that the lady, having contracted the diſorder, had given it to her huſband, in order to criminate him in the opinion of his friends.

However this be, ſhe affected to be greatly diſguſted, again forbad him her bed, and conſoled herſelf with the company of a colonel in the army. At times ſhe behaved with more complaiſance to her huſband, who had, after a while, the honour of being deemed father of another child of which ſhe was delivered: and after this circumſtance ſhe indulged herſelf in ſtill greater liberties than before; her mother, who was almoſt conſtantly with her, encouraging her in this ſhameful proſtitution of manners.

At length a ſcheme was concerted, which would probably have ended in the deſtruction of

Mr.

Mr. Sayer and Colonel Saliſbury, if it had not been happily prevented by the prudence of the latter. The colonel taking an opportunity to repreſent to Mrs. Sayer the ill conſequences that muſt attend her infidelity to her huſband, ſhe immediately attacked him with the moſt outrageous language, and inſulted him to that degree that he threw the remains of a diſh of tea at her. The mother and daughter immediately laid hold of this circumſtance to inflame the paſſions of Mr. Sayer, whom they at length prevailed on to demand ſatisfaction of the colonel.

The challenge is ſaid to have been written by Mrs. Sayer, and when the colonel received it, he conjectured that it was a plan concerted between the ladies to ged rid of their huſbands. However, he obeyed the ſummons, and going in a coach with Mr. Sayer towards Montague-Houſe, he addreſſed him as follows: "Son Sayer, let us "come to a right underſtanding of this buſineſs. "'Tis very well known that I am a ſwordſman, "and I ſhould be very far from getting any ho-"nour by killing you. But to come nearer to "the point in hand. Thou ſhouldſt know Jack, "for all the world knows, that thy wife and "mine are both whores. They want to get rid "of us at once. If thou ſhouldſt drop, they'll "have me hanged for it after." There was ſo much of obvious truth in this remark, that Mr. Sayer immediately felt its force, and the gentlemen drove home together, to the great mortification of the ladies.

Soon after this affair Mrs. Sayer went to her houſe in Buckinghamſhire, where an intimacy took place between her and the curate of the pariſh, and their amour was conducted with ſo little

reſerve, that all the ſervants ſaw that the parſon had more influence in the houſe than their maſter.

Mrs. Sayer coming to London, was ſoon followed by the young clergyman, who was ſeized with the ſmall-pox, which coſt him his life. When he found that there was no hope of his recovery, he ſent to Mr. Sayer, earneſtly requeſting to ſee him: but Mrs. Sayer, who judged what he wanted, ſaid that her mother had not had the ſmall-pox, and ſuch a viſit might coſt her her life; wherefore ſhe inſiſted that her huſband ſhould not go; and the paſſive man tamely ſubmitted to this injunction, though his wife daily ſent a footman to enquire after the clergyman, who died without being viſited by Mr. Sayer.

This gentleman had not been long dead before his place was ſupplied by an officer of the guards; but he was ſoon diſmiſſed in favour of a man of great diſtinction, who preſented her with ſome valuable china, which ſhe pretended was won at Aſtrop-Wells.

About this time Mr. Sayer found his affairs conſiderably deranged by his wife's extravagance; on which a gentleman recommended to him Mr. Richard Noble, an attorney, as a man capable of being very ſerviceable to him.

Noble was the ſon of a man who kept a very reputable coffee-houſe at Bath. His parents lived in great credit, and his mother was ſo virtuous a woman, that when Noble afterwards went to her houſe with Mrs. Sayer, in a coach and ſix, ſhe ſhut the door againſt him. Noble had been well educated, and articled to an attorney of eminence in New Inn, in which he afterwards took chambers for himſelf; but he had not been in any con-

conſiderable degree of practice when he was introduced to Mr. Sayer.

Noble had not been long acquainted with the family before he became too intimate with Mrs. Sayer, and, if report ſaid true, with her mother likewiſe. However, theſe two abandoned women had other matters in proſpect beſides mere gallantry, and conſidering Noble as a man of buſineſs as well as a lover, they concerted a ſcheme to deprive Mr. Sayer of a conſiderable part of his eſtate.

The unhappy gentleman, being perpetually teized by the women, at length conſented to execute a deed of ſeparation, in which he aſſigned ſome lands in Buckinghamſhire, to the amount of 150l. a year, to his wife, excluſive of 50l. a year for pin-money: and by this deed he likewiſe covenanted that Mrs. Sayer might live with whom ſhe pleaſed, and that he would never moleſt any perſon on account of harbouring her. Mr. Sayer was even ſo weak as to ſign this deed without having a council of his own to examine it.

Not long after this Mrs. Sayer was delivered of a child at Bath: but that the huſband might not take alarm at this circumſtance, Noble ſent him a letter, acquainting him that he was to be pricked down for high ſheriff of Buckinghamſhire; and Mrs. Saliſbury urged him to go to Holland to be out of the way, and ſupplied him with ſome money on the occaſion.

It does not ſeem probable that Sayer had any ſuſpicion of Noble's criminal intercourſe with his wife, for the night before he ſet out he preſented him with a pair of ſaddle-piſtols and furniture worth above 40l.

Soon after he was gone Mrs. Sayer's maid ſpeaking of the danger her maſter might be in at

ſea, the abandoned woman ſaid "She ſhould be "ſorry his man James, a poor innocent fellow, "ſhould come to any harm; but ſhe ſhould be "glad, and earneſtly wiſhed that Mr. Sayer "might ſink to the bottom of the ſea, and that "the bottom of the ſhip might come out."

Not long after Mr. Sayer was gone abroad, Noble began to give himſelf airs of greater conſequence than be had hitherto done. He was ſolicitor in a cauſe in the court of chancery, in which Mr. Sayer was plaintiff, and having obtained a decree, he obliged the truſtees nominated in the marriage articles to relinquiſh, and aſſumed the authority of a ſole truſtee.

Mr. Sayer remained in Holland near a year, during which Noble publicly cohabited with his wife; and when her huſband returned ſhe refuſed to live with him; but having firſt robbed him of above 2000l. in exchequer bills and other effects, ſhe went to private lodgings with Noble, ſoon after which ſhe was delivered of another child. After Mrs. Sayer had thus eloped from her huſband, he cauſed an advertiſement to be inſerted in the news-papers, of which the following is a copy.

"Whereas Mary, the wife of John Sayer, "Eſq. late of Liſle-ſtreet, St. Anns, went away "from her dwelling-houſe on or about the 23d "of May laſt, in company with Elizabeth Ne-"vil, ſiſter to the ſaid Mary, and hath carried "away near 1000l. in money, beſides other "things of a conſiderable value, and is ſuppoſed "to go by ſome other name; he deſires all tradeſ-"men and others not to give her any credit, for "that he will not pay the ſame."

While Mrs. Sayer cohabited with Noble he was conſtantly ſupplied with money; but he was

not her only aſſociate at that time; for, during his occaſional abſence, ſhe gratified herſelf with the company of other lovers.

Noble now procured an order from the court of chancery to take Mr. Sayer in execution for 400l. at the ſuit of Mrs. Saliſbury, the conſequence of a judgment confeſſed by him, for form's ſake, to protect his goods from his creditors while he was in Holland. Mr. Sayer declared that the real debt was not more than 70l. though artful management and legal expences had ſwelled it to the above-mentioned ſum.

Hereupon Sayer took refuge within the rules of the Fleet Priſon, and exhibited his bill in chancery for relief againſt theſe ſuits, and the deed of ſeparation, which he obtained; but before he had an opportunity of ſuing out judgment againſt Noble, the vengeance of heaven overtook that abandoned villain.

Mrs. Sayer finding herſelf liable to be expoſed by the advertiſement her huſband had cauſed to be inſerted in the news-papers, ſhe, with her mother and Noble, took lodgings in the Mint, Southwark, which was at that time a place of refuge for great numbers of perſons of deſperate circumſtances and abandoned diſpoſitions.

Mr. Sayer was now informed that his wife had taken lodgings in the Mint, on which he wrote ſeveral letters to her, promiſing that he would forgive all her crimes, if ſhe would return to her duty: but ſhe treated his letters with as much contempt as ſhe had done his perſon.

Hereupon he determined to ſeize on her by force, preſuming that he ſhould recover ſome of his effects if he could get her into his cuſtody. He therefore obtained the warrant of a juſtice of the peace, and taking with him two conſtables,

and

and ſix aſſiſtants, went to the houſe of George Twyford in the Mint, the conſtables intimating that they had a warrant to ſearch for a ſuſpected perſon; for if it had been thought that they were bailiffs, their lives would have been in danger.

Having entered the houſe, they went to a back room, where Noble, Mrs. Sayer and Mrs. Saliſbury were at dinner; but the door was no ſooner opened than Noble drew his ſword, and ſtabbing Sayer in the left breaſt, he died on the ſpot. The conſtables immediately apprehended the murderer and the two women; but the latter were ſo abandoned, that while the peace-officers were conveying them to the houſe of a magiſtrate, they did little elſe than lament the fate of Noble.

As it appeared as if the mob would riſe, from an apprehenſion that the priſoners were debtors, a conſtable was directed to carry the bloody ſword before them, in teſtimony that murder had been committed; which produced the wiſhed-for effect by keeping perfect peace.

The priſoners begged to ſend for council; which being granted, Noble was committed for trial, after an examination of two hours; but the council urged ſo many arguments in favour of the women, that it was ten o'clock at night before they were committed. Soon afterwards this unworthy mother and daughter applied to the court of King's-Bench, to be admitted to bail; but this favour was refuſed them.

The coroner's inqueſt having viewed Mr. Sayer's body, it was removed to his lodgings within the rules of the Fleet in order for interment; and three days afterwards they gave a verdict, finding Noble guilty of wilful murder, and the women of having aided and aſſiſted him in that murder.

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On the evening of the 12th of March 1713, they were put to the bar at Kingſton in Surry, and having been arraigned on the ſeveral indictments, and pleaded not guilty, were told to prepare for their trials by ſix o'clock on the following morning.

Being brought down for trial at the appointed time, they moved the court that their trials might be deferred till the afternoon, on the plea that ſome material witneſſes were abſent: but the court not believing their allegations, refuſed to comply with their requeſt. It was imagined that this motion to put off their trials was founded in the expectation that when the buſineſs at the niſi prius bar was diſpatched, many of the jurymen might go home, ſo that when the priſoners had made their challenges, there might not be a number left ſufficient to try them, by which they might eſcape till the next aſſizes, by which time they hoped ſome circumſtances would happen in their favour.

The trials being ordered to come on, Mr. Noble and Mrs. Saliſbury each challenged twenty of the jury, and Mrs. Sayer challenged thirty-five;* ſo that it was owing to the great number of jurors ſummoned by the ſheriff, that the ends of public juſtice were not, for the preſent, defeated.

It will be unneceſſary to recite the particulars of the evidence given on the trial, becauſe thoſe who have read the preceding narrative muſt be well apprized of its nature. Suffice it to ſay that the

* All perſons indicted for felony have a right to challenge twenty jurors, and thoſe indicted for petit-treaſon thirty-five. This may be done without alledging any cauſe; and they may likewiſe challenge as many more as they can ſhew good cauſe of objection to.

the crime of the murder was clearly proved againſt Noble: however his council urged that ſome of the perſons who broke into the houſe might have murdered Mr. Sayer, or if they had not, the provocation he had received might be ſuch as would warrant the jury in bringing him in guilty of manſlaughter only.

As the court had ſat from ſix o'clock in the morning, till one o'clock the next morning, the jury were indulged with ſome refreſhment before they left the bar; and after being out nine hours, they gave their verdict that Mr. Noble was "guilty," and Mrs. Saliſbury and Mrs. Sayer were "Not guilty."

When Mr. Noble was brought to the bar to receive ſentence, he made a ſpeech of which the following is a copy.

My Lord,

"I AM ſoon to appear and render an account of my ſins to God Almighty. If your lordſhip ſhould think me guilty of thoſe crimes, I have been accuſed with, and convicted of by my jury, I am then ſure your lordſhip will think that I ſtand in need of ſuch a reparation, ſuch a humiliation for my great offences, ſuch an abhorrence of my paſt life, to give me hopes of a future one, that I am not without hopes that it will be a motive to your lordſhip's goodneſs, that after you have judged and ſentenced my body to execution, you will charitably aſſiſt me with a little time for the preſervation of my ſoul.

"If I had nothing to anſwer for but killing Mr. Sayer with precedent malice, I ſhould have no need to addreſs myſelf to your lordſhip in this manner. It is now too late to take advantage by denying it to your lordſhip, and too near my end

to

to diſſemble it before God. I know my lord the danger, the hell that I ſhould plunge myſelf headlong into; I know I ſhall ſoon anſwer for the truth I am now about to ſay, before a higher tribunal, and a more diſcerning judge than your lordſhip, which is only in heaven; that I did not take the advantage to kill Mr. Sayer, by a thought or apprehenſion that I could do it under the umbrage of the laws, or with impunity, and nothing was more diſtant from my thoughts, than to remove him out of the world to enjoy his wife (as was ſuggeſted) without moleſtation. Nor could any one have greater reluctance or remorſe, from the time of the fact to the hour of my trial, than I have had, though the proſecutors reported to the contrary, for which I heartily forgive them.

" My council obliged me to ſay on my trial, that I heard Mr. Sayer's voice before he broke open the door; I told them, as I now tell your lordſhip, that I did not know it was him, till he was breaking in at the door, and then, and not before, was my ſword drawn, and the wound given, which wound, as Dr. Garth informed me, was ſo very ſlight, that it was a thouſand to one that he died of it.

" When I gave the wound, I inſenſibly quitted the ſword, by which means I left myſelf open for him to have done what was proved he attempted, and was ſo likely for him to have effected, viz. to have ſtabbed me: which are circumſtances that manifeſt the greatneſs of my ſurprize.

" When I heard the company run up ſtairs, I was alarmed, and in fear; the landlord telling me inſtantly thereupon, that the houſe was beſet, either for me or himſelf, added to my confuſion.

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I then never thought or intended to do miſchief, but firſt bolted the fore door, and then bolted and padlocked the back door, which was glazed, and began to faſten the ſhutters belonging to it, deſigning only to ſcreen myſelf from the violence of the tumult. When he broke open the door, and not till then, I perceived and knew he was preſent: and his former threats and attempts, which I ſo fully proved on my trial, and could have proved much fuller, had not Mrs. Saliſbury's evidence been taken from me, made my fear ſo great, and the apprehenſion of my danger ſo near, that what I did was the natural motion of ſelf-defence, and was too ſudden to be the reſult of precedent malice; and I ſolemnly declare, that I did not hear or know from Twyford the landlord or otherwiſe, that any conſtable attended the deceaſed, till after the misfortune happened. It was my misfortune, that what I ſaid as to hearing the deceaſed's voice was turned to my diſadvantage by the council againſt me, and that I was not intitled to any aſſiſtance of council to enforce the evidence given for me, or to remark upon the evidence given againſt me; which I don't doubt would have fully ſatisfied your lordſhip and the jury, that what happened was more my misfortune, than my deſign or intention.

"If I had been able, under the concern, to remark upon the evidence againſt me, that Mr. Sayer was but the tenth part of a minute in breaking open the door, it could not then well be ſuppoſed by the jury, that I was preparing myſelf, or putting myſelf in order to do miſchief, which are acts of fore-thought and conſideration, which require much more time than is pretended I could have had from the time I diſcovered Mr. Sayer; for even from his entry into the houſe, to

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the time of the accident, did not amount, as I am informed, to more than the ſpace of three minutes. But I did not diſcover him before the door gave way.

" I wiſh it had been my good fortune, that the jury had applied that to me which your lordſhip remarked in favour of the ladies, that the matter was ſo very ſudden, ſo very accidental and unexpected, that it was impoſſible to be a contrivance and confederacy, and unlikely that they could come to a reſolution in ſo ſhort a time. I don't remember your lordſhip diſtinguiſhed my caſe, as to that particular, to be different from theirs, nor was there room for it; for it is impoſſible for your lordſhip to believe that I dreamt of Mr. Sayer's coming there at that time, but on the contrary I fully proved to your lordſhip, that I went there upon another occaſion, that was lawful and beneficial to the deceaſed; and I had no more time to think or contrive, than the ladies had to agree or conſent. If any thing could be conſtrued favourably on the behalf of ſuch an unfortunate wretch as myſelf, I think the deſign I had ſometime before began, and was about finiſhing that day, might have taken away all ſuſpicion of malice againſt Mr. Sayer.

" Muſt it be thought, my lord, that I only am ſuch a ſinner that I cannot repent and make reparations to the perſons I have injured? it was denied; but I ſtrongly ſollicited a reconciliation between Mr. Sayer and his lady, and if this had tended to procure me an eaſier acceſs to Mrs. Sayer, it would have been ſuch a matter of aggravation to me, that it could not have eſcaped the remark of the council againſt me, nor the ſharpneſs of the proſecutors preſent in court; with both I tranſacted, and to both I appealed, particular-

ly to Mr. Nott, to whom, but the day before the accident, I manifeſted my deſire of having them live together again, and therefore, my lord, it ſhould be preſumed I laboured to be reconciled to, and not to revenge myſelf on, Mr. Sayer.

" Your lordſhip, I hope, will obſerve ſo much in my favour, that it was ſo far from being a clear fact in the opinion of the jury, that they ſat up all night, and believing there was no malice at that time, told your lordſhip they intended, and were inclined to find it manſlaughter, and, doubting the legality of the warrant, to find it ſpecial.

" I hope this will touch your lordſhip's heart ſo far, as not to think me ſo ill a man as to deſerve (what the beſt of Chriſtians are taught to pray againſt) a ſudden death.

" I confeſs I am unprepared; the hopes of my being able to make a legal defence, and my endeavours therein having taken up my time, which I wiſh I had better employed: I beg leave to aſſure your lordſhip, upon the words of a dying man, that as none of the indirect practices to get or ſuppreſs evidence were proved upon me, ſo they never ſprang from me: and I can ſafely ſay, that my blood in a great meaſure will lye at their door that did, becauſe it drew me under an ill imputation of defending myſelf by ſubornation of perjury.

" I would be willing to do my duty towards my neighbour, as well as God, before I die; I have many papers and concerns (by reaſon of my profeſſion) of my clients in my hands, and who will ſuffer if they are not put into ſome order; and nothing but theſe two conſiderations could make life deſirable, under this heavy load of irons, and reſtleſs remorſe of conſcience for my ſins. A ſhort reprieve for theſe purpoſes I hope will be agree-

agreeable to your lordſhip's humanity and Chriſtian virtue, whereupon your lordſhip's name ſhall be bleſt with my laſt breath, for giving me an opportunity of making peace with my conſcience and God Almighty."

The laſt requeſt that Noble made was granted. He was allowed ſome time to ſettle his ſpiritual and temporal concerns, and at length was executed at Kingſton on the 28th of March, 1713, exhibiting marks of genuine repentance.

With regard to the women, they were no ſooner acquitted than they ſet out for London, taking one of the turnkeys with them, to protect them from the aſſaults of the populace, who were incenſed in the higheſt degree at the ſingular enormity of their crimes.

Little need be added, by way of reflection, to this long and intereſting narrative. Thoſe who do not ſee and abhor the extreme wickedneſs of theſe abandoned women, are not likely to be influenced by any arguments we can uſe. The ſituation of Mr. Sayer is pitiable in a high degree. He was diſtractedly fond of a woman who deſpiſed him; who deſpiſed every thing that bore but the ſemblance of virtue.

The fate of Noble was no other than what he merited by a long and obſtinate perſeverance in a courſe of vice and ingratitude: his baſeneſs is almoſt unexampled. We hope the force of the following advice of the wiſe king Solomon will be felt by all our readers. "Enter not into the "path of the wicked, and go not in the way of "evil men. Avoid it, paſs not by it; turn from "it, and paſs away. For they ſleep not except "they have done miſchief; and their ſleep is "taken away, unleſs they cauſe ſome to FALL."

Account

Account of WILLIAM LOWTHER, and RICHARD KEELE, who were convicted of Murder, and hanged in Chains.

WILLIAM LOWTHER was a native of Cumberland, and being bound to the maſter of a Newcaſtle ſhip which traded to London, became acquainted with ſome of that low and abandoned company which is always to be found in the metropolis.

Richard Keele was a native of Hampſhire, and ſerved his time to a barber in Wincheſter; and on coming to London, he married and ſettled in his own buſineſs in Rotherhithe; but not living happily with his wife, he parted from her, cohabited with another woman, and aſſociated with a number of diſorderly people, till the commiſſion of the crime for which his life paid the forfeit.

On the 10th of December, 1713, they were indicted at the Old Bailey, for aſſiſting Charles Houghton in the murder of Edward Perry.

The caſe was as follows. Houghton, one Cullum, and the Priſoners, having been convicted of felony at the Old Bailey, were ſentenced to be kept to hard labour in Clerkenwell Bridewell for two years. On their being carried thither, Mr. Boreman, the keeper, thought it neceſſary to put them in irons, to prevent their eſcape. This they all refuſed to ſubmit to, and Boreman having ordered the irons, they broke into the room where the arms were depoſited, which they ſeized, and then attacked the keeper and his aſſiſtants, whom they cruelly beat. Lowther bit off part of a man's noſe. At this time Perry was without the gate, and deſired the priſoners to be peaceable; but advancing towards them, he was ſtabbed

bed by Houghton, and during the affray Houghton was ſhot dead.

The priſoners being at length victorious, many of them made their eſcape; but the neighbours giving their aſſiſtance, Keele and Lowther (and ſeveral others) were taken, and were convicted on the cleareſt evidence. Before the paſſing ſentence, Keele endeavoured to extenuate his crime; but he was informed by the court that he muſt be deemed equally guilty with the reſt of his companions, as he had oppoſed the keepers in the execution of their duty.

Some time after conviction a ſmith went to the priſon to take meaſure of them for chains, in which they were to be hung, purſuant to an order from the ſecretary of ſtate's office; but they refuſed to let him do his duty.

On the morning of execution, being the 13th of December, 1713, they were carried from Newgate to Clerkenwell-Green, and there hanged on a gallows erected on the occaſion; after which their bodies were put into a cart, drawn by four horſes, decorated with plumes of black feathers; and were hung in chains on the day after their execution.

While theſe unhappy men lay under ſentence of death, they appeared to have a due ſenſe of of the enormity of the crime of which they had been guilty, and made ſerious preparation for the important change they were to undergo: but at the place of execution Keele aſked the under ſheriff if they were to be hung in chains; when the anſwer given was, "Don't concern yourſelf "about your body, but take care of your poor "ſoul."

It is very remarkable that many unhappy convicts have been more anxious that their bodies

ſhould

ſhould not hang in chains, than even for the preſervation of life itſelf: ſuch is the ſenſe of ſhame which prevails in the minds of thoſe whoſe crimes have been ſo atrocious, that one would conjecture they had been hardened beyond all idea of ſhame. What is the inference to be drawn from this fact? It ſeems evident that ſuch is the corruption of the human heart, that men will commit thoſe crimes without bluſhing, the ſlighteſt puniſhment of which they cannot bear the idea of: for ſurely the hanging in chains, after death, can ſcarcely be deemed a puniſhment. In fact, it is not intended as a puniſhment to the deceaſed, but a terror to the living: and it is a circumſtance of the utmoſt diſgrace, and the moſt mortifying to the human feelings, to be hung up between heaven and earth, as if unworthy of either; the ſport of the winds, a prey for the birds of the air, and an object of pity, ſcorn and deriſion to their fellow-creatures.

There is no ſaying to what lengths any man may proceed who once departs from the path of integrity. Many a perſon has been executed for murder, whoſe firſt crimes were of a very inferior nature: but vice is not only rapid, but greedy in its progreſs. It is like a ſnow-ball rolled down a hill; its bulk encreaſes by its own ſwiftneſs.

Hence let the young and the thoughtleſs be taught to guard againſt the firſt approaches of vice; to ſhun the contamination of bad company, as they would a peſtilence; and, in the Scripture phraſe, to "fly from all appearance of evil."

Particulars reſpecting HENRY PLUNKET, who was hanged for Murder.

HENRY PLUNKET was a native of a place called Saar-Lewis, in the duchy of Lorrain, and was the ſon of an Iriſh gentleman, who held the rank of colonel in the French ſervice, and was related to father Plunket, a prieſt, who was called the primate of Ireland, and came to a fatal end in the year 1679. Young Plunket was made a lieutenant when he was only ten years of age, and ſerved under his father in Flanders, Germany, and Italy. He was remarkably diſtinguiſhed for his courage, having never exhibited the leaſt ſign of fear in all the engagements in which he was concerned.

Having been a while at Oſtend, he came over to England with a gentleman named Reynard, having fled from that place on account of having murdered a man.

He was indicted at the Old Bailey for the murder of Thomas Brown, by cutting his throat with a razor, on the 30th of Auguſt 1714.

It appeared in the courſe of the evidence that the priſoner lodged in the pariſh of St. Anne Soho, in the ſame houſe with the deceaſed, who being a peruke-maker by trade, Plunket beſpoke a wig of him, which Brown finiſhed, and aſked ſeven pounds for it, but at length lowered his demand to ſix: Plunket bid him four pounds for it; but was ſo enraged at what he thought an exorbitant price, that he took up a razor, cut his throat, and then made his eſcape; but was apprehended on the following day.

As ſoon as the horrid deed was perpetrated Brown came down ſtairs in a bloody condition, holding his hands to his throat; on which a ſurgeon was ſent for, who dreſſed his wounds, and gave him ſome cordials; by which he was ſo far recovered as to be able to deſcribe the priſoner, who, he ſaid, ſtood behind him, pulled back his head, and cut him twice on the throat.

It was proved that a ſword and a pair of gloves belonging to the priſoner were found on a bed in the room where Brown was murdered; and Plunket having nothing material to urge in his defence, was found guilty, received ſentence of death; and was executed at Tyburn, on the 22d of September, 1714.

He profeſſed to die a Roman catholic; and it was with the utmoſt difficulty he was brought to confeſs the juſtice of the ſentence in conſequence of which he ſuffered.

This was one of the moſt unprovoked murders of which we ever remember to have read. Plunket beſpoke a wig of Brown, and becauſe the latter aſked more for it than the other ſuppoſed it to be worth, he is irritated to ſuch a degree of paſſion as to cut his throat! The ſhort and ſerious leſſon to be learnt from this ſhocking narrative, is to guard carefully againſt the firſt impulſe of ſudden paſſion; and to remember that without a conſtant guard of this kind is kept on ourſelves, that the human heart is "corrupt above all things, "and deſperately wicked."

May the preventing grace of God keep us all from being guilty of crimes of this atrocious nature; crimes which are aſſuredly and ſeverely puniſhed in this world, and which threaten the moſt dreadful and laſting torments in the next.

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Narrative of the Caſe of THOMAS DOUGLAS, who was executed for ſtabbing WILLIAM SPARKS.

THOMAS DOUGLAS was indicted at the Old Bailey, for the murder of William Sparks, a ſeaman, at a public-houſe in Wapping.

It appeared in the courſe of the evidence that the parties had been drinking together, till they were inflamed with liquor, when the priſoner took up a knife, and ſtabbed the other in ſuch a manner that he died on the ſpot. The atrociouſneſs of the offence was ſuch, that Douglas was immediately taken into cuſtody; and being convicted on the cleareſt evidence, received ſentence of death.

This criminal was born in the county of Berwick in Scotland, and having been educated by his parents according to the ſtrictly religious plan prevailing in that country, he was bound apprentice to a ſea-faring perſon at Berwick, and when he was out of his time, he entered on board a ſhip in the royal navy, and in this ſtation acquired the character of an expert and valiant ſeaman.

Having ſerved queen Anne during ſeveral engagements in the Mediterranean and other ſeas, he returned to England, with Sparks, who was his ſhipmate, on whom he committed the murder we have mentioned.

After conviction, it was a difficult matter to make Douglas ſenſible of the enormity of the crime that he had committed; for he ſuppoſed that, as he was drunk when he perpetrated the fact, he ought to be conſidered in the ſame light as a man who was a lunatic.

This unhappy malefactor ſuffered at Tyburn on the 27th of October, 1714.

From his fate and ſentiments we may learn the following uſeful inſtructions. We ſee that drunkenneſs is a crime of a very high nature, ſince it may lead to the commiſſion of the higheſt. If this man had not been in a ſtate of intoxication, he would probably never have been guilty of murder. We ſhould remember that the bounties of Providence were ſent for our uſe and ſuſtenance, not to be abuſed. It is a judicious obſervation of the ingenious authors of the ſpectator, that "if a man commits murder when he is "drunk, he muſt be hanged for it when he is "ſober." It is no excuſe for any one to ſay he was guilty of a crime when drunk, becauſe drunkenneſs itſelf is a crime; and what he may deem an excuſe is only an aggravation of his offence; ſince it is acknowledging that he has been guilty of two crimes inſtead of one.

The concluſion to be drawn from this ſad ſtory is, that temperance is a capital virtue; and that drunkenneſs, as it debauches the underſtanding, reduces a man below the level of the "beaſts that "periſh." The offender before us acknowledged, in his laſt moments, that it was but the fore-runner of other crimes: and as what happened to him may be the caſe with others; as drunkenneſs produces quarrels, and quarrels lead to murder, we hope the caſe of this unhappy man will impreſs on the minds of our readers the great importance of temperance and ſobriety. We ſee that Douglas had received a very religious education; yet even this was inadequate to preſerve him from the fatal effects of a caſual intoxication! When men drink too much, and in conſequence

thereof aſſault and wound their companions, we may ſay, in the words of the poet, that

" Death is in the Bowl."

Caſe of NATHANIEL PARKHURST, Eſq. who was hanged for the Murder of LEWIS PLEURA.

MR. PARKHURST was indicted at the Old Bailey, for the Murder of Lewis Pleura, on the 3d of March, 1715, and a ſecond time indicted on the ſtatute of ſtabbing; when the ſubſtance of the evidence given againſt him was as follows.

Parkhurſt and the deceaſed having been fellow priſoners in the Fleet for debt, the former, who had ſat up drinking till three o'clock in the morning, went into a room adjoining to that of Mr. Pleura, and ſaid " D—n you, Sir Lewis, " where are you?" but finding that he had miſtaken the room, he went into the right chamber, and ſaid " D— you, Sir Lewis, pay me the four " guineas you owe me." Soon after this the cry of murder was heard, when a number of people repairing to the place, found Pleura weltering in his blood on the floor, and Parkhurſt over him with his ſword, who had ſtabbed him in near twenty places.

A ſurgeon was immediately ſent for, who dreſſed the deceaſed, and put him to bed, and as ſoon as he recovered the uſe of his ſpeech, he declared that Parkhurſt had aſſaſſinated him. Parkhurſt being taken out of the room, went back again to it, and ſaid, " D— you, Pleura, are " you not dead yet?"

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In anſwer to this evidence againſt him, he ſaid, that he was ignorant of having committed the crime, and, for two years and a half paſt, had been in a very unhappy ſtate of mind; and ſeveral witneſſes were called to prove that he had done many things which ſeemed to intimate that he was a lunatic: but on the contrary, other evidences depoſed that not long before the murder happened he had taken ſuch ſteps towards obtaining his liberty as proved that he was in the full uſe of his intellectual faculties. Upon the whole, therefore, the jury found him guilty, and he received ſentence of death.

Mr. Parkhurſt was a native of the village of Cateſby, near Daventry in Northamptonſhire, and was the ſon of very reſpectable parents, who having given him the education common in a country academy, ſent him to finiſh his ſtudies at Wadham-College in Oxford: but aſſociating himſelf with men of an atheiſtical turn of mind, they employed themſelves in ridiculing religion, and making a jeſt of the ſcriptures, and every thing that was held ſacred.

Lewis Pleura who was born in Italy, had taken upon himſelf the title of count, and ſubſiſted by the practice of gaming, till being greatly reduced in circumſtances, he was obliged to take refuge in the Fleet-Priſon, where he became acquainted with Mr. Parkhurſt.

Soon after this offender had received ſentence of death he began to ſee the error of thoſe opinions he had imbibed, acknowledged the truth of that religion he had ridiculed, and felt the force of its divine precepts. He confeſſed that the diſſolute courſe of life which he had led, had waſted his ſubſtance, weakened his intellectual

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faculties, and diſturbed his mind to ſuch a degree, that before he committed the murder for which he ſuffered, he had reſolved to kill ſome perſon or other, and make his eſcape from the Fleet Priſon: or, if he ſhould be unable to effect this, he intended to have been guilty of ſuicide.

It is very remarkable of this malefactor, that, on the morning of execution, he ordered a fowl to be prepared for his breakfaſt, of which he ſeemed to eat with a good appetite, and drank a pint of liquor with it.

At the place of execution he addreſſed himſelf to the populace, intimating that ſince he had been ill of the ſmall-pox, about 20 years before, his head had been affected to ſuch a degree, that he was never able to ſpeak long at a time; wherefore he ſaid no more, only earneſtly requeſted their prayers for his departing ſoul.

He was executed at Tyburn on the 20th of May, 1715, in the 39th year of his age.

It will ſeem extraordinary to our readers that Mr. Parkhurſt ſhould order a fowl for his breakfaſt, and eat heartily of it, juſt before he was going to launch into eternity; but it is within the memory of many thouſand perſons now living, that lord Lovat, on the morning that he was beheaded, breakfaſted on minced veal, a diſh of which he was extremely fond. One would imagine that the ſolemn ſcene before a man in ſuch awful moments ſhould detach him from every thing that had relation to this life, and that his ideas ſhould be fixed only on thoſe eternal ſcenes that were ſoon to be diſplayed to his view!

Mr. Parkhurſt ſeems to have owed his deſtruction to his aſſociation with men of libertine principles: men who derided religion, and ſcoffed at holy things. We may ſafely conclude that there

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is not ſuch a Being in the world as an atheiſt who can be happy. The man who denies the exiſtence of that God in whom he lives, moves, and has his being, muſt be extremely wretched in this world, while he is preparing for an eternity of wretchedneſs in the next.

On the contrary, the man who has a firm faith in the important and all-chearing doctrines of chriſtianity, will go through the various ſcenes of this life with a ſerene compoſure of mind; he will, as far as lies within his power, diſcharge his duty to God and man, and meet the moment of his diſſolution in the fulleſt confidence that his final ſalvation will be perfected through the merits of that Saviour in whom he has truſted.

After the expulſion of Adam from Paradiſe, Cain ſtands the firſt notorious example on record of the ſin of murder; a crime of ſo enormous a magnitude, that no language can be found in which to expreſs its malignity. The murderer aſſumes to himſelf the privilege of heaven, and preſumes to ſtop the breath of his fellow-creature at his own pleaſure, and to hurry him into eternity "with all his imperfections on his head."

Let thoſe whom the turbulence of their paſſions may tempt only to *think* of committing murder, reflect, that there is a juſt God who judgeth the earth, and that all our moſt ſecret actions will be brought to light.

Abſtract of the Trial of JOHN BIGG, who was convicted of altering a Bank Note.

ON the 2d of June, 1715, John Bigg was indicted at the Old Bailey, on two indictments,

ments, the one for eraſing, and the other for altering a bank note of 100l.

On the trial it appeared that the bill in queſtion was drawn in favour of James White or bearer, and had been ſigned by Joſeph Odam, for the governor and company of the Bank of England: that this bill having been brought to the bank, 90l. was paid and endorſed on it: that it was afterwards brought again, when 25l. was paid and endorſed as before; and the clerks finding that this bill, among others, had been overpaid, were ſurprized to think how it could have happened, till one Mr. Collins informed them that the priſoner had tempted him to be concerned with him in taking out the letters of the red ink on the notes, by means of a certain liquid; and had even ſhewn him in what manner it was to be done.

It appeared likewiſe that the priſoner had diſcovered this ſecret to Mars, who had ſeen him make the experiment, had received money for him on the altered notes, and was promiſed a third part of the profit for his ſhare in the iniquity.

The priſoner did not deny the charge; but his council pleaded that Mr. Odam was not a ſervant properly qualified to make out ſuch bills, unleſs he had been authorized under the ſeal of the corporation. They likewiſe inſiſted that writing with red ink on the inſide of the bill could not be deemed an indorſement; and even if it were ſo accounted, the fact with which the priſoner was charged could not be called an altering or eraſing.

After ſome altercation between the king's council and thoſe of the priſoner, the opinion of the court was that Mr. Odam was a perſon properly

qualified to make out ſuch bills; but a doubt ariſing reſpecting the other articles, the jury gave a ſpecial verdict.

The judges meeting on this occaſion at Serjeant's-Inn Hall, Fleet-ſtreet, the caſe was ſolemnly argued; after which the unanimous opinion of the reverend ſages of the law was given that the priſoner was guilty, within the meaning of the act of parliament; in conſequence of which he received ſentence of death in December, 1715, but afterwards obtained a free pardon.

From the caſe of this malefactor we may ſee the tenderneſs with which Engliſhmen are treated in matters which concern their lives. In caſes of ſpecial verdicts priſoners have the advantage of the opinions of two juries: the firſt not knowing in what light to conſider the crime, the learned bench of judges form a kind of ſecond jury, where, all partiality being ſet aſide, the ſuppoſed criminal is judged according to the ſtrict meaning of the law; and, even after conviction, has a chance of obtaining the royal mercy, as happened in the caſe of the offender in queſtion.

Hence, then, let Engliſhmen learn the value of thoſe laws by which they are protected, and be devoutly thankful to that Providence which hath caſt their lot in a country the wiſdom of whoſe legiſlature is the envy and admiration of the univerſe.

Caſe of HENRY POWEL, who was hanged for a Robbery on the Highway.

HENRY POWEL was a native of London, born of reſpectable parents in the year 1691.

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At the age of nine years he was placed at Merchant Taylors School, whence he was removed to the care of Dr. Shorter, under whom he obtained a tolerable proficiency in the Latin and Greek languages.

Having made choice of the profeſſion of a ſurgeon, he was bound at Surgeon's-Hall, to a gentleman equally eminent for his ſkill and piety: but giving early proofs of the wildneſs of his diſpoſition, his maſter predicted the fatal conſequence that would enſue.

Powel's father and mother dying ſoon after he was bound, and his maſter, when he had ſerved ſix years of his time, he was wholly at his own diſpoſal; a circumſtance that led to his ruin. He was at this time only eighteen years of age, and hitherto had not kept any company that was notoriouſly wicked. Going now to ſee a young woman who was related to him, ſhe fancied a ring which he had on his finger, and wiſhed he would exchange it for hers, which he did; but it appearing to be of leſs value than ſhe had imagined, ſhe was baſe enough, on the following morning, to have him ſeized in his bed, as a perſon proper to ſerve the king; and without being permitted to ſend for any friend, he was ſent into Flanders as a foot-ſoldier.

He twice deſerted from the regiment in which he ſerved; but the interceſſion of ſome of his officers ſaved him from the cuſtomary puniſhment. When he had been a ſoldier about three years the regiment was quartered at Nieuport, between Dunkirk and Oſtend, whence he again deſerted, in company with ſeven other men, who travelled into Holland, where they embarked on board a ſhip bound to England, and being landed at Burlington in Yorkſhire, Powel came up to London.

Being arrived in the metropolis, he found that he had not one acquaintance left who was able and willing to aſſiſt him; ſo that he repented having deſerted from the army, being reduced to ſuch a ſituation that he ſaw no proſpect before him but either to beg or ſteal. The firſt he deſpiſed as a mean occupation, and the latter he dreaded as equally deſtructive to his ſoul and body.

Hereupon he applied for employment as a porter, and worked at the water ſide, till a fellow induced him to be concerned in ſtealing ſome goods, for which the other was hanged.

About this time Powel married a young woman of ſtrict virtue, who finding ſome irregularity in his behaviour, warned him to avoid all evil courſes, as they muſt infallibly end in his deſtruction.

On the 15th of October, '1715, he went as far as South Mims in Hertfordſhire, where he ſtopped Sarah Maddocks on the highway, and robbed her of two ſhillings and ſix-pence, for which offence he was apprehended, and being tried at the Old-Bailey in the following month, he was convicted, received ſentence of death, and was executed at Tyburn on the 23d of December, 1715.

Juſt before his going to the place of execution, he delivered a paper to the Ordinary of Newgate, in which were the following paſſages: "I account this ignominious death as a juſt judgment for my ſins againſt the Divine Majeſty, and my neighbour; and therefore patiently reſign myſelf to his bleſſed will, and hope (with true repentance, and a ſtedfaſt faith in Chriſt Jeſus) he will ſeal my pardon in heaven before I go hence, and be no more ſeen; and I bleſs God, I have had more conſolation under my condemnation, than

ever I had theſe many years; and I hope that thoſe who ſurvive me, will take warning by my fatal end.

" I have this comfort, that no man can accuſe me of enticing him to the commiſſion of ſuch facts; eſpecially one perſon who had accuſed me of it ſince my condemnation: but for the value I have for him, I'll omit his name, and deſire him to take warning by me; being reſolved within myſelf, that if God had prolonged my days, I would relinquiſh all ſuch courſes."

This malefactor had been educated in a manner greatly ſuperior to the generality of thoſe unhappy wretches who come to a like fatal end; and ſeems to have owed his deſtruction in ſome degree to his poverty. Thus far he appears an object of pity: but as he was in a way of earning his bread, though in a humble ſtation, he ought to have reſigned himſelf to his fate, and not to have been led aſtray into the paths of iniquity.

Hence let the poor be taught that a ſhilling honeſtly earned will afford them more ſatisfaction than any ſum, however large, acquired in a fraudulent manner. The man who lives by depredations on others muſt be always reſtleſs in his own mind. There is great force, as well as truth, in that text of ſcripture which ſays that " there is " no peace to the wicked."

Particulars reſpecting the LORDS and other Perſons, who were tried on Account of the Rebellion in the year 1715.

WHEN, in purſuance of the act of ſettlement, king George the Firſt ſucceeded to the

the throne of theſe realms, the earl of Mar, a Scottiſh nobleman, who had been deeply concerned with queen Anne's tory miniſtry, was deprived of all the places he held under the government; in revenge for which he retired to Scotland, and meditated a ſcheme to dethrone the king, and overturn the conſtitution.

Being aſſured of the aſſiſtance of a number of the Highlanders, he communicated his plan to ſome noblemen in Scotland and the north of England, who joined with him in ſending an invitation to the Pretender to invade theſe kingdoms: and they alſo diſpatched three men to London, to endeavour to enliſt ſoldiers for the Pretender's ſervice.

The names of theſe men were Robert Whitty, Felix O'Hara, and Joſeph Sullivan; and though the buſineſs in which they engaged was of the moſt dangerous nature, yet they continued it for ſome time; but were at length apprehended, brought to trial, and being convicted, were executed at Tyburn on the 28th of May, 1715.

Robert Whitty was born in Ireland, and having enliſted for a ſoldier when young, ſerved in an Engliſh regiment in Spain, where being wounded, he was brought to England, and received the bounty of Chelſea-College as an out-penſioner.

Felix O'Hara, who was about 29 years of age, was likewiſe an Iriſhman, and having lived ſome time in Dublin as a waiter at a tavern, he ſaved ſome money, and entered into buſineſs for himſelf; but that not anſwering as he could have wiſhed, he came to London.

Joseph Sullivan was a native of Munſter in Ireland, and about the ſame age as O'Hara. He had for ſome time ſerved in the Iriſh brigades,

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but obtaining his diſcharge, he came to England, and was thought a fit agent to engage in the buſineſs which coſt him and his companions their lives.

Theſe men denied, at the time of their trial, that they had been guilty of any crime; and even at the place of execution they attempted to defend their conduct. They all died profeſſing the Roman catholic religion.

Hence let us learn to abhor the pernicious doctrines of that church which could encourage ſubjects in the wiſh to dethrone their lawful ſovereign; and may we be taught the force of the inſtruction "Fear God, and honour the king."

We will now continue the narrative of which this is but the introduction. The earl of Mar had reſolved to keep his proceedings an abſolute ſecret; but it is almoſt impoſſible for tranſactions of this nature to remain ſo; and information of what had paſſed having been tranſmitted to court, the king went to the houſe on the 20th of July, 1715, and having ſent for the commons, informed both houſes of parliament that he had received authentic intelligence of an intention formed by the Pretender to invade his kingdoms; and that he was apprehenſive he had but too many abettors in this country.

Wherefore, that the ends of public juſtice might be ſpeedily obtained, the king requeſted that the habeas corpus act might be ſuſpended till the rebellion ſhould be at an end. Accordingly the legiſlature ſuſpended the ſaid act, in conſequence of which ſeveral ſuſpected perſons were taken into cuſtody. The militia was now raiſed in different parts of the kingdom, the guards were encamped in Hyde-Park; a number of ſhips

were

were ordered to guard the coaſts, and other proper ſteps taken for the public ſecurity.

The earl of Mar was by this time at the head of three thouſand men, with whom he marched from town to town in Scotland, proclaiming the Pretender by the title of James the Third. Some of the ſoldiers in the caſtle of Edinburgh having been bribed to aſſiſt ſome of the earl of Mar's men in getting over the walls by means of rope-ladders, they were diſpatched to ſurprize the caſtle: but the lord juſtice clerk was ſo much on his guard, that this ſcheme was fruſtrated, and ſome of the parties concerned in it ſuffered death.

Chagrined by this circumſtance, and hearing that the French king was juſt then dead, many of the rebels were for abandoning their enterprize till the arrival of the Pretender: but this intention did not take place; for on the 6th of October, 1715, Thomas Foſter Eſq. member of parliament for Northumberland, ſet up the Pretender's ſtandard in that county, and being joined by ſeveral noblemen and gentlemen, they made an attempt to ſeize Newcaſtle, but did not ſucceed. They were afterwards joined by a body of the Scotch at Kelſo, and after marching to different places, they came to Preſton in Lancaſhire.

In the mean time the generals Carpenter and Wills marched into the North, but finding the rebels gone ſouthwards, they went to Preſton, which place the rebels intended to defend againſt the king's forces, whom they for ſome time annoyed by firing from the windows of the houſes; but at length the royal troops were victorious, after the loſs of about 150 men.

It is uncertain how many of the rebels were killed; but the number of priſoners was about fifteen

fifteen hundred, among whom were the earl of Derwentwater *, Lord Widdrington *; the earls of Nithiſdale, Winton, and Carnwarth; viſcount Kenmure, and lord Nairn. The common ſoldiers among the rebels were impriſoned at Liverpool, and other places in that neighbourhood; but the above-mentioned noblemen, with other perſons above the common rank, to the number of near three hundred, were brought to London.

They arrived at Highgate on the 14th of November, where they were met by a party of the foot-guards, and their arms being tied back with cords, their horſes were led, each by a grenadier; and in this ignominious manner they were conducted to the metropolis; when the noblemen were committed to the Tower, and the reſt to Newgate.

In the mean time a number of the Scotch rebels had marched to Perth, where they proclaimed the Pretender; in conſequence of which John Duke of Argyle, who had been commiſſioned to raiſe forces, marched againſt, and came up with them, at Sheriffmuir near Dumblane, on the very day of the other engagement: and the rebellion would have been then cruſhed, but that ſome of the duke's troops ran away on the firſt fire, and got to Stirling, about ſeven miles from the field of battle: however, the duke obtained a partial victory, by forcing the enemies lines with his dragoons.

The earl of Mar retired to Perth on the following day, propoſing to croſs the Forth, with a view to join the rebels in England: but a fleet

* Theſe two were Engliſh peers; the reſt Scotch.

lying oppoſite Edinburgh, prevented this deſign from being carried into execution.

About this period Sir John M'Kenzie having fortified the town of Inverneſs for the Pretender, lord Lovat, * at the head of his tenants, drove him from that place; a circumſtance of great importance to the royal cauſe, as a communication was thereby opened between the Highlands, and the ſouth of Scotland: and the earl of Seaforth, and the marquis of Huntly laid down their arms, in conſequence of the earl of Sutherland having armed his tenants in ſupport of government.

The rebels now went into winter quarters at Perth, and the duke of Argyle at Stirling; and the Pretender having landed at Peterhead, with ſix attendants only, met his friends at Perth on the 22d of December, and on the ninth of the following month made a public entry into the palace of Scone, and aſſuming the dignity of a ſovereign prince, iſſued a proclamation for his coronation, and another for the aſſembling the ſtates.

But this farce continued only for a very ſhort time; for general Cadogan arriving with ſix thouſand Dutch forces to the aid of the duke of Argyle, about the end of January, the latter marched towards Perth, but the rebels fled as ſoon as they heard he was advancing. For a while they had expectation of aid from France, in the hope of which the Pretender and his adherents went to Dundee, and thence to Montroſe; but after waiting a while, and no aid arriving, they began to deſpair;

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* The ſame lord Lovat who was beheaded on Tower-Hill, for being concerned in the rebellion of 1745. What an inconſiſtency in this man's character!

deſpair; and as the king's troops purſued them, the common men diſperſed to their own habitations, and the Pretender, with the earl of Mar, and ſome others of his principal adherents, embarked on board a ſhip in the harbour of Montroſe, and were ſoon landed in France, after having narrowly eſcaped an Engliſh fleet which lay on the coaſt of Scotland, through the extreme darkneſs of the night in which they embarked.

The diſturbances in the north being thus at an end, both houſes of parliament combined to ſhew their loyalty to their ſovereign, and regard to the public welfare. Mr. Foſter was expelled from the houſe of commons, who unanimouſly agreed to impeach the ſeven lords, which was accordingly done.

Theſe unhappy noblemen were informed of what had paſſed; and earl Cowper, lord high chancellor, being appointed lord high ſteward on the occaſion, all the lords pleaded guilty to the indictment, except the earl of Winton: but they offered ſuch pleas in extenuation of their crimes, as they thought might induce the king to extend his royal mercy to them: and the earl of Derwentwater hinted that the proceeding of the houſe of commons in the impeachment was out of the ordinary courſe of law.

In conſequence of their having pleaded guilty, proclamation was made for ſilence, and the lord high ſteward paſſed ſentence of death on them, prefacing the ſolemn ſentence with the following affecting ſpeech:

"JAMES Earl of Derwentwater, William lord Widdrington, William earl of Nithiſdale, Robert earl of Carnwarth, William viſcount Kenmure, William lord Nairn.

" You ſtand impeached by the commons of Great-Britain in parliament aſſembled, of high treaſon, in traitorouſly imagining, and compaſſing the death of his moſt ſacred majeſty, and in conſpiring for that end to levy a bloody and deſtructive war againſt his majeſty, in order to depoſe and murder him; and in levying war accordingly, and proclaiming a Pretender to his crown to be king of theſe realms.

" Which impeachment, though one of your lordſhips, in the introduction to his plea, ſuppoſes to be out of the ordinary and common courſe of the law and juſtice, is yet as much a courſe of proceeding according to the common law, as any other whatſoever.

" If you had been indicted, the indictment muſt have been removed and brought before the houſe of lords, (the parliament ſitting.) In that caſe you had ('tis true) been accuſed only by the grand-jury of one county; in the preſent, the whole body of the commons of Great-Britain, by their repreſentatives, are your accuſers.

" And this circumſtance is very obſervable (to exclude all poſſible ſuppoſition of hardſhip, as to the method of proceeding againſt you) that however all great aſſemblies are apt to differ on other points, you were impeached by the unanimous opinion of the houſe of commons, not one contradicting.

" They found themſelves, it ſeems, ſo much concerned in the preſervation of his moſt truly ſacred majeſty, and the Proteſtant ſucceſſion (the very life and ſoul of theſe kingdoms) that they could not omit the firſt opportunity of taking their proper part, in order to ſo ſignal and neceſſary an act of his majeſty's juſtice.

" And

" And thus the whole body politic of this free kingdom, has in a manner roſe up in its own defence, for the puniſhment of thoſe crimes, which, it was rightly apprehended, had a direct tendency to the everlaſting diſſolution of it.

" To this impeachment you have ſeverally pleaded, and acknowledged yourſelves guilty of the high treaſon therein contained.

" Your pleas are accompanied with ſome variety of matter to mitigate your offences, and to obtain mercy.

" Part of which, as ſome of the circumſtances ſaid to have attended your ſurrender, (ſeeming to be offered rather as arguments only for mercy, than any thing in mitigation of your preceding guilt) is not proper for me to take notice of.

" But as to the other part which is meant to extenuate the crimes of which you are convicted, it is fit I ſhould take this occaſion to make ſome obſervations to your lordſhips upon it, to the end that the judgment to be given againſt you may clearly appear to be juſt and righteous, as well as legal ; and that you may not remain under any fatal error in reſpect of a greater judicature, by reflecting with leſs horror and remorſe on the guilt you have contracted, than it really deſerves.

" It is alledged by ſome of your lordſhips, that you engaged in this rebellion without previous concert or deliberation, and without ſuitable preparations of men, horſes, and arms.

" If this ſhould be ſuppoſed true, on ſome of your lordſhips averring it, I deſire you to conſider, that as it exempts you from the circumſtance of contriving this treaſon, ſo it very much aggravates your guilt in that part you have undoubtedly borne in the execution of it.

" For

" For it ſhews, that your inclinations to rebel were ſo well known, (which could only be from a continued ſeries of your words and actions) that the contrivers of that horrid deſign depended upon you, and therein judged rightly; that your zeal to engage in this treaſon was ſo ſtrong, as to carry you into it on the leaſt warning, and the very firſt invitation: that you would not excuſe yourſelves by want of preparation, as you might have done; and that rather than not have ſhare in the rebellion, you would plunge yourſelves into it, almoſt naked and unprovided for ſuch an enterprize: in ſhort, that your men, horſes, and arms, were not ſo well prepared as they might, and would have been on longer warning; but your minds were.

" It is alledged alſo as an extenuation of your crimes, that no cruel or harſh action (I ſuppoſe is meant no rapine or plunder, or worſe) has been committed by you.

" This may, in part only, be true: but then your lordſhips will at the ſame time conſider, that the laying waſte a tract of land, bears but a little proportion in point of guilt, compared with that crime of which you ſtand convicted; an open attempt to deſtroy the beſt of kings, to ruin the whole fabrick, and raſe the very foundations of a government, the beſt ſuited of any in the world, to perfect the happineſs, and ſupport the dignity of human nature. The former offence cauſes but a miſchief that is ſoon recovered, and is uſually pretty much confined; the latter, had it ſucceeded, muſt have brought a laſting and univerſal deſtruction on the whole kingdom.

" Beſides, much of this was owing to accident; your march was ſo haſty, partly to avoid the

the king's troops, and partly from a vain hope to ſtir up inſurrections in all the counties you paſſed through, that you had not time to ſpread devaſtation, without deviating from your main, and, as I have obſerved, much worſe deſign.

" Farther: 'Tis very ſurprizing that any concerned in this rebellion, ſhould lay their engaging in it on the government's doing a neceſſary and uſual act in like caſes, for its preſervation; the giving orders to confine ſuch as were moſt likely to join in that treaſon: 'tis hard to believe that any one ſhould rebel, merely to avoid being reſtrained from rebelling; or that a gentle confinement would not much better have ſuited a crazy ſtate of health, than the fatigues and inconveniences of ſuch long and haſty marches in the depth of winter.

" Your lordſhips riſing in arms therefore, has much more juſtified the prudence and fitneſs of thoſe orders, than thoſe orders will in any wiſe ſerve to mitigate your treaſon. Alas! happy had it been for all your lordſhips, had you fallen under ſo indulgent a reſtraint!

" When your lordſhips ſhall in good earneſt apply yourſelves to think impartially on your caſe, ſurely you will not yourſelves believe that it is poſſible, in the nature of the thing, to be engaged, and continue ſo long engaged, in ſuch a difficult and laborious enterprize, through raſhneſs, ſurprize, or inadvertency; or that had the attack at Preſton been leſs ſudden, (and conſequently the rebels better prepared to receive it) your lordſhips had been reduced the ſooner, and with leſs, if not without any bloodſhed.

" No, my lords, theſe, and ſuch like, are artful colourings proceeding from minds filled with expectation of continuing in this world, and not from

from ſuch as are preparing for their defence before a tribunal, where the thoughts of the heart, and the true ſprings and cauſes of actions muſt be laid open.

" And now, my lords, having thus removed ſome falſe colours you have uſed; to aſſiſt you yet farther in that neceſſary work of thinking on your great offence as you ought, I proceed to touch upon ſeveral circumſtances that ſeem greatly to aggravate your crime, and which will deſerve your moſt ſerious conſideration.

" The divine virtues ('tis one of your lordſhips own epithets) which all the world, as well as your lordſhips, acknowledge to be in his majeſty, and which you now lay claim to, ought certainly to have with-held your hands from endeavouring to depoſe, to deſtroy, to murder, that moſt excellent prince; ſo the impeachment ſpeaks, and ſo the law conſtrues your actions: and this is not only true in the notion of law, but almoſt always ſo in deed and reaſon. 'Tis a trite, but very true remark, that there are but few hours between kings being reduced under the power of pretenders to their crown, and their graves. Had you ſucceeded, his majeſty's caſe would, I fear, have hardly been an exception to that general rule, ſince 'tis highly improbable, that flight ſhould have ſaved any of that illuſtrious and valiant family.

" 'Tis a further aggravation of your crime, that his majeſty, whom your lordſhips would have dethroned, affected not the crown by force, or by the arts of ambition, but ſucceeded peaceably and legally to it; and on the deceaſe of her late majeſty without iſſue, became undoubtedly the next in courſe of deſcent capable of ſucceeding to the crown, by the law and conſtitution of this

kingdom, as it ſtood declared ſome years before the crown was expreſsly limited to the houſe of Hanover. This right was acknowledged, and the deſcent of the crown limited or confirmed accordingly, by the whole legiſlature in two ſucceſſive reigns, and more than once in the latter, which your lordſhips accomplices are very far from allowing would bias the nation to that ſide.

" How could it then enter into the heart of man, to think that private perſons might with a good conſcience endeavour to ſubvert ſuch a ſettlement by running to tumultuary arms, and by intoxicating the dregs of the people, with contradictory opinions, and groundleſs ſlanders; or that God's providence would ever proſper ſuch wicked, ſuch ruinous attempts? eſpecially if in the next place it be conſidered, that the moſt fertile inventions on the ſide of the rebellion, have not been able to aſſign the leaſt ſhadow of a grievance as the cauſe of it: to ſuch poor ſhifts have they been reduced on this head, that for want of better colours, it has been objected, in a ſolemn manner, by your lordſhip's aſſociates, to his majeſty's government, that his people do not enjoy the fruits of peace as our neighbours have done ſince the laſt war: thus they firſt rob us of our peace, and then upbraid us that we have it not. 'Tis a monſtrous rebellion that can find no fault with the government it invades, but what is the effect of the rebellion itſelf.

" Your lordſhips will likewiſe do well to conſider what an additional burden your treaſon has made neceſſary on the people of this kingdom, who wanted, and were about to enjoy ſome reſpite: to this end, 'tis well known, that all new, or increaſe of taxes, were the laſt year carefully avoid-

ed, and his majeſty was contented to have no more forces than were juſt ſufficient to attend his perſon, and ſhut the gates of a few garriſons.

" But what his majeſty thus did for the eaſe and quiet of his people, you moſt ungratefully turned to his diſadvantage, by taking encouragement from thence, to endanger his and his kingdoms ſafety, and to bring oppreſſion on your fellow-ſubjects.

" Your lordſhips obſerve, I avoid expatiating on the miſeries of a civil war, a very large and copious ſubject; I ſhall but barely ſuggeſt to you on that head, that whatever thoſe calamities may happen to be in the preſent caſe, all who are, at any time, or in any place, partakers in the rebellion, (eſpecially perſons of figure and diſtinction) are in ſome degree reſponſible for them; and therefore your lordſhips muſt not hold yourſelves quite clear from the guilt of thoſe barbarities which have been lately committed, by ſuch as are engaged in the ſame treaſon with you, and not yet perfectly reduced, in burning the habitations of their countrymen, and thereby expoſing many thouſands to cold and hunger in this rigorous ſeaſon.

" I muſt be ſo juſt to ſuch of your lordſhips, as profeſs the religion of the church of Rome, that you had one temptation, and that a great one, to engage you in this treaſon, which the others had not; in that, 'twas evident, ſucceſs on your part muſt for ever have eſtabliſhed Popery in this kingdom, and that probably you could never have again ſo fair an opportunity.

" But then, good God! how muſt thoſe Proteſtants be covered with confuſion, who entered into the ſame meaſures, without ſo much as capitulating for their religion, (that ever I could find

find from any examination I have ſeen or heard) or ſo much as requiring, much leſs obtaining a frail promiſe, that it ſhould be preſerved, or even tolerated.

" It is my duty to exhort your lordſhips thus to think of the aggravations as well as the mitigations (if there be any) of your offences: and if I could have the leaſt hopes, that the prejudices of habit and education would not be too ſtrong for the moſt earneſt and charitable entreaties, I would beg you not to rely any longer on thoſe directors of your conſciences, by whoſe conduct you have, very probably, been led into this miſerable condition; but that your lordſhips would be aſſiſted by ſome of thoſe pious and learned divines of the church of England, who have conſtantly borne that infallible mark of ſincere Chriſtians, univerſal charity.

" And now, my lords, nothing remains, but that I pronounce upon you (and ſorry I am that it falls to my lot to do it) that terrible ſentence of the law, which muſt be the ſame that is uſually given againſt the meaneſt offender in the like kind.

" The moſt ignominious and painful parts of it are uſually remitted by the grace of the crown to perſons of your quality; but the law, in this caſe, being deaf to all diſtinctions of perſons, requires I ſhould pronounce, and accordingly it is adjudged by this court;

" That you, James Earl of Derwentwater, William Lord Widdrington, William Earl of Nithiſdale, Robert Earl of Carnwarth, William Viſcount Kenmure, and William Lord Nairn, and every of you, return to the priſon of the Tower from whence you came; from thence you muſt be drawn to the place of execution; when

you come there, you muſt be hanged by the neck, but not till you be dead; for you muſt be cut down alive, then your bowels muſt be taken out, and burnt before your faces; then your heads muſt be ſevered from your bodies, and your bodies divided each into four quarters; and theſe muſt be at the king's diſpoſal. And God Almighty be merciful to your ſouls."

After ſentence thus paſſed, the lords were remanded back to the Tower, and on the 18th of February orders were ſent to the lieutenant of the Tower and ſheriffs for their execution; and great ſolicitations were made in favour of them, which did not only reach the court, but came down to the two houſes of parliament, and petitions were delivered in both, which being backed by ſome, occaſioned debates: that in the houſe of commons aroſe no higher than to occaſion a motion for adjournment, thereby to prevent any further interpoſition there; but the matter in the houſe of peers was carried on with more ſucceſs, where their petitions were delivered and ſpoke to, and it was carried by nine or ten voices, that the ſame ſhould be received and read. And the queſtion was put, whether the king had power to reprieve in caſe of impeachment? which being carried in the affirmative, a motion was made to addreſs his majeſty to deſire him to grant a reprieve to the lords under ſentence; but the movers thereof only obtained this clauſe, viz. "To reprieve ſuch "of the condemned lords as deſerve his mercy; "and that the time of the reſpite ſhould be left "to his majeſty's diſcretion."

To which addreſs his majeſty replied,

"That on this, and other occaſions, he would "do what he thought moſt conſiſtent with the "dig-

" dignity of his crown, and the ſafety of his " people."

The great parties they had made, as was ſaid, by the means of money, and alſo the raſh expreſſions too common in the mouths of many of their friends, as if the government did not dare to execute them, did not a little contribute to the haſtening their execution: for on the ſame day the addreſs was preſented, the 23d of February, it was reſolved in council, that the earl of Derwentwater, and the lord Kenmure ſhould be beheaded; and the earl of Nithiſdale apprehending he ſhould be included in the warrant, made his eſcape the evening before, in a woman's riding-hood, ſuppoſed to have been conveyed to him by his mother on a viſit.

In the morning of the 24th of February three detachments of the life guards went from Whitehall to Tower-Hill, and having taken their ſtations round the ſcaffold, the two lords were brought from the Tower at ten o'clock, and being received by the ſheriffs at the bar, were conducted to the Tranſport-Office on Tower-Hill; and at the expiration of about an hour, the earl of Derwentwater ſent word that he was ready; on which Sir John Fryer, one of the ſheriffs, walked before him to the ſcaffold, and when there, told him he might have what time he pleaſed to prepare himſelf for death.

His lordſhip deſired to read a paper which he had written, the ſubſtance of which was, that he was ſorry for having pleaded guilty; that he acknowledged no king but James the Third, for whom he had an inviolable affection, and that theſe kingdoms would never be happy till the antient conſtitution was reſtored; and he wiſhed his death might contribute to that deſirable end. His

lord-

lordſhip profeſſed to die a Roman catholic, and in the poſtcript to his ſpeech, ſaid, " If that " prince, who now governs, had given me life, " I ſhould have thought myſelf obliged never " more to have taken up arms againſt him."

Sir John Fryer deſiring to have the paper, he ſaid he had ſent a copy of it to his friends, and then delivered it. He then read ſome prayers out of two ſmall books, and kneeled down to try how the block would fit his neck. This being done, he had again recourſe to his devotions, and having told the executioner that he forgave him, and likewiſe forgave all his enemies, he directed him to ſtrike when he ſhould repeat the words " ſweet Jeſus" the third time.

He then kneeled down, and ſaid " ſweet Je- " ſus! receive my ſpirit; ſweet Jeſus! be mer- " ciful to me; ſweet Jeſus"—and appeared to be proceeding in his prayer, when his head was ſtruck off at one blow; and the executioner taking it up, exhibited it at the four corners of the ſcaffold, ſaying, " Behold the head of a trai- " tor:—God ſave king George."

The body was now wrapped up in black bays, and being carried to a coach, was delivered to the friends of the deceaſed: and the ſcaffold having been cleared, freſh bays put on the block, and ſtraw-duſt ſtrewed, that none of the blood might appear, lord Kenmure was conducted to the ſcaffold.

His lordſhip, who was a Proteſtant, was attended by two clergymen; but he declined ſaying much, telling one of them that he had prudential reaſons for not delivering his ſentiments; which were ſuppoſed to ariſe from his regard to lord Carnwarth, who was his brother in law, and was then interceding for the royal mercy; as his talk-

ing in the way that lord Derwentwater had done, might be ſuppoſed to injure his lordſhip with thoſe moſt likely to ſerve him.

Lord Kenmure having finiſhed his devotions, declared that he forgave the executioner, to whom he made a preſent of eight guineas. He was attended by a ſurgeon, who drew his finger over that part of the neck where the blow was to be ſtruck; and being executed as lord Derwentwater had been, his body was delivered to the care of an undertaker.

George earl of Winton, not having pleaded guilty with the other lords, was brought to his trial on the 15th of March, when the principal matter urged in his favour was, that he had ſurrendered at Preſton in conſequence of a promiſe from general Wills to grant him his life: in anſwer to which it was ſworn, that no promiſe of mercy was made, but that the rebels ſurrendered at diſcretion.

The earl of Winton having left his houſe, with fourteen or fifteen of his ſervants, well mounted and armed;—his joining the earl Carnwarth and lord Kenmure; his proceeding with the rebels through the various ſtages of their march, and his ſurrendering with the reſt, were circumſtances fully proved: notwithſtanding which his council moved in arreſt of judgment: but the plea on which this motion was founded being thought inſufficient, his peers unanimouſly found him guilty; and then the lord high ſteward pronounced ſentence on him, after having addreſſed him in the following forcible terms:

"GEORGE Earl of Winton, I have acquainted you, that your peers have found you

you guilty; that is, in the terms of the law, convicted you of the high treaſon whereof you ſtand impeached; after your lordſhip has moved in arreſt of judgment, and their lordſhips have diſallowed that motion, their next ſtep is to proceed to judgment.

" The melancholy part I am to bear, in pronouncing that judgment upon you, ſince it is his majeſty's pleaſure to appoint me to that office, I dutifully ſubmit to it; far, very far, from taking any ſatisfaction in it.

" Till conviction, your lordſhip has been ſpoke to without the leaſt prejudice, or ſuppoſition of your guilt; but now it muſt be taken for granted, that your lordſhip is guilty of the high treaſon whereof you ſtand impeached.

" My lord, this your crime is the greateſt known to the law of this kingdom, or of any other country whatſoever, and it is of the blackeſt and moſt odious ſpecies of that crime; a conſpiracy and attempt, manifeſted by an open rebellion, to depoſe and murder that ſacred perſon, who ſuſtains, and is the majeſty of the whole; and from whom, as from a fountain of warmth and glory, are diſperſed all the honours, all the dignity of the ſtate; indeed the laſting and operative life and vigour of the laws, which plainly ſubſiſt by a due adminiſtration of the executive power.

" So that attempting this precious life, is really ſtriking at the moſt noble part, the ſeat of life, and ſpring of all motion in this government; and may therefore properly be called a deſign to murder not only the king, but alſo the body politick of this kingdom.

" And this is moſt evidently true in your lordſhip's caſe, conſidering that ſucceſs in your treaſon muſt infallibly have eſtabliſhed Popery, and

that

that never fails to bring with it a civil as well as eccleſiaſtick tyranny: which is quite another ſort of conſtitution than that of this kingdom, and cannot take place till the preſent is annihilated.

" This your crime (ſo I muſt call it) is the more aggravated, in that where it proceeds ſo far as to take arms openly, and to make an offenſive war againſt lawful authority, 'tis generally (as in your caſe) complicated with the horrid and crying ſin of murdering many, who are not only innocent, but meritorious: and if pity be due (as I admit it is in ſome degree) to ſuch as ſuffer for their own crimes; it muſt be admitted a much greater ſhare of compaſſion is owing to them, who have loſt their lives merely by the crimes of other men.

" As many as have ſo done in the late rebellion, ſo many murders have they to anſwer for, who promoted it; and your lordſhip in examining your conſcience, will be under a great deluſion, if you look on thoſe who fell at Preſton, Dumblain, or elſewhere, on the ſide of the laws, and defence of ſettled order and government, as ſlain in lawful war, even judging of this matter by the law of nations.

" Alas! my lord, your crime of high treaſon is yet made redder, by ſhedding a great deal of the beſt blood in the kingdom; I include in this expreſſion the brave common ſoldiers, as well as thoſe gallant and heroic officers, who continued faithful to death, in defence of the laws: for ſure but little blood can be better than that, which is ſhed while it is warm, in the cauſe of the true religion, and the liberties of its native country.

" I believe it, notwithſtanding the unfair arts and induſtry uſed, to ſtir up a pernicious exceſs

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of commiſeration toward ſuch as have fallen by the ſword of juſtice, (few, if compared with the numbers of good ſubjects, murdered from doors and windows at Preſton only) the life of one honeſt loyal ſubject is more precious in the eye of God, and all conſidering men, than the lives of many rebels and parricides.

" This puts me in mind to obſerve to your lordſhip, that there is another malignity in your lordſhip's crime, (open rebellion) which conſiſts in this, that it is always ſure of doing hurt to a government, in one reſpect, though it be defeated; (I will not ſay, it does ſo on the whole matter.)

" For if the offence is too notorious to be let paſs unobſerved, by any connivance; then is government reduced to this dilemma: if it be not puniſhed, the ſtate is endangered by ſuffering examples to appear, that it may be attacked with impunity; if it be puniſhed, they who are publickly or privately favourers of the treaſon (and perhaps ſome out of mere folly) raiſe undeſerved clamours of cruelty againſt thoſe in power; or the loweſt their malice flies, is to make unſeaſonable, unlimited, and injudicious encomiums, upon mercy and forgiveneſs (things rightly uſed, certainly of the greateſt excellence.)

" And this proceeding, it muſt be admitted, does harm, with ſilly and undiſtinguiſhing people. So that the rebels have the ſatisfaction of thinking they hurt the government a little even by their fall.

" The only, but true conſolation, every wiſe government has, in ſuch a caſe, (after it has tempered juſtice with mercy, in ſuch proportion as ſound diſcretion directs, having always a care of the public ſafety above all things) is this; that ſuch

ſuch like ſeeds of unreaſonable diſcontents, take root on very ſhallow ſoil only; and that therefore, after they have made a weak ſhoot, they ſoon wither and come to nothing.

" It is well your lordſhip has given an opportunity of doing the government right, on the ſubject of your ſurrender at Preſton.

" How confidently had it been given out by the faction, that the ſurrender was made on aſſurances, at leaſt hopes, inſinuated of pardon. Whereas the truth appears to be, that fear was the only motive to it: the evil day was deferred; and the rebels rightly depended, fewer would die at laſt by the meaſures they elected, than if they had ſtood an aſſault. They were awed by the experienced courage, diſcipline, and ſteadineſs of the king's troops, and by the ſuperior genius and ſpirit of his majeſty's commanders, over thoſe of the rebels: ſo that in truth, they were never flattered with any other terms, than to ſurrender as rebels and traitors; their lives only to be ſpared till his majeſty's pleaſure ſhould be known.

" It was indeed a debt due to thoſe brave commanders and ſoldiers (to whom their king and country owe more than can be well expreſſed) that their victory ſhould be vindicated to the preſent and future ages, from untrue detraction, and kept from being ſullied by the tongues of rebels and their accomplices, when their arms could no longer hinder it.

" 'Tis hard to leave this ſubject without ſhortly obſerving, that this engine which ſets the world on fire, a lying tongue, has been of prodigious uſe to the party of the rebels, not only ſince, and during the rebellion, but before, while it was forming, and the rebels preparing for it.

" Falſe facts, falſe hopes, and falſe characters, have been the greater half of the ſcheme they ſet out with, and yet ſeem to depend upon.

" It has been rightly obſerved, your lordſhip's anſwer does not ſo much as inſiſt, with any clearneſs, on that which only could excuſe your being taken in open rebellion; that is, you was forced into it, remained ſo under a force, and would have eſcaped from it, but could not.

" If you had ſo inſiſted, it has been clearly proved that that had not been true; for your lordſhip was active and forward in many inſtances, and ſo conſiderable in military capacity among your fellow-ſoldiers, as to command a ſquadron. Theſe, and other particulars, have been obſerved by the managers of the houſe of commons, and therefore I ſhall not purſue them further, but conclude this introduction to the ſentence, by exhorting your lordſhip with perfect charity, and much earneſtneſs, to conſider that now the time is come, when the veil of partiality ſhould be taken from your eyes, (it muſt be ſo when you come to die) and that your lordſhip ſhould henceforward think with clearneſs and indifference (if poſſible) which muſt produce in you a hearty deteſtation of the high crime you have committed; and, being a Proteſtant, be very likely to make you a ſincere penitent, for your having engaged in a deſign that muſt have deſtroyed the holy religion you profeſs, had it taken effect.

" Nothing now remains, but that I pronounce upon you that ſentence which the law ordains, and which ſufficiently ſhews, what thoughts our anceſtors had of the crime of which your lordſhip is now convicted, viz. " That you George Earl of Winton, &c."

Soon

Soon after the paſſing this ſentence the earls of Winton and Nithiſdale found means to eſcape out of the Tower; and Meſſrs. Foſter and M'Intoſh eſcaped from Newgate; but it was ſuppoſed that motives of mercy and tenderneſs in the prince of Wales, afterwards George the ſecond, favoured the eſcape of all theſe gentlemen.

This rebellion occaſioned the untimely death of many other perſons. Five were executed at Mancheſter, ſix at Wigan, and eleven at Preſton: but a conſiderable number were brought to London, and being arraigned in the court of exchequer, moſt of them pleaded guilty, and ſuffered the utmoſt rigour of the law.

It will now be proper that we mention the caſes of ſuch other remarkable perſons as ſuffered on account of the rebellion; and then we will make ſome general remarks on the nature and heinouſneſs of that offence.

Short Account of JOHN GORDON, WILLIAM KERR, and JOHN DORRELL; who were executed for High-Treaſon.

ALL the particulars we have been able to learn reſpecting theſe men are as follows. They had all of them ſerved as officers in the army during the wars in the reign of Queen Anne, but they were zealous friends to the cauſe of the pretender.

Having learnt that the rebels had got as far as Lancaſhire, they appear to have been animated with the hope that ſucceſs would attend the enterprize; whereupon they held ſeveral meetings at a public-houſe in Shoe-Lane, London, where they agreed to ſet off for different parts of the country, to enliſt ſome men to promote the undertaking;

taking; and they bound themſelves to each other by the moſt ſolemn oaths to keep their tranſactions ſecret.

But they defeated the effects of theſe oaths almoſt in the moment they took them: for they met ſo often, and were ſo careleſs of what they ſaid, that they were heard by perſons who liſtened at the door of their room; in conſequence of which information was given, and they were taken into cuſtody, tried, and being convicted on full evidence, were hanged and quartered at Tyburn on the 7th of December, 1715.

They were the firſt perſons that ſuffered on account of the rebellion; profeſſed themſelves Roman catholics, and died denying the juſtice of the ſentence againſt them.

Caſe of Colonel HENRY OXBURGH, executed for High-Treaſon.

HENRY OXBURGH, Eſq. the ſon of a man of conſiderable property in Lancaſhire, having been educated in the moſt rigid principles of the Roman catholic religion, was ſent abroad while a youth into the ſervice of France, in which he acquired the character of a brave and gallant officer.

At the cloſe of the war he returned to England to ſee his friends, and finding that the rebels were advancing ſouthwards, he raiſed a regiment, with which he joined the main army before it reached Preſton. Colonel Oxburgh was the man who ordered the rebels to fire on the royal troops, and, if his opinion had been taken, the town would not have ſurrendered ſo ſoon as it did.

On his trial he pleaded guilty; but after ſentence was paſſed on him, and he found that every appli-

application for mercy was unſucceſsful, he talked in a ſtrain very different from that of a man conſcious of any crime. He ſaid he conſidered the pretender as his lawful ſovereign, and never deemed himſelf the ſubject of any other prince. He even aſſerted that he would have been equally loyal to the pretender if he had been a proteſtant.

This unhappy man, who ſeems to have fallen a victim to the prejudice of education, was hanged at Tyburn on the 14th of May, 1716.

Short Narrative reſpecting RICHARD GASCOIGN, Gentleman, executed for High-Treaſon.

THIS unfortunate man was ſingularly active in fomenting the rebellion. So zealous was he in the cauſe, that he mortgaged his whole eſtate to ſupply him with money to purchaſe arms from foreign countries.

When the rebels marched towards the ſouth of England he engaged all the forces he could, and went and joined them, proclaiming the pretender king at every ſtage of his march. He was made priſoner by the king's troops at Preſton, at the ſame time as Colonel Oxburgh; and being arraigned before Lord Chief Juſtice King, in Weſtminſter-Hall, he pleaded "not guilty."

On his trial it was proved that ſome caſks of arms which he had purchaſed abroad, were found on board a ſhip, directed to him; and being found guilty, on the cleareſt evidence, ſentence of death was paſſed on him; in conſequence of which he was executed at Tyburn, on the 25th of May, 1716.

While he lay under ſentence of death his ſentiments appeared to be nearly the ſame as thoſe of Colonel Oxburgh: and at the place of execution he

he declared that he did not take up arms with a view to reſtore the Roman catholic religion, but ſolely in behalf of James the third, whom he deemed his lawful ſovereign.

Caſe of the Reverend WILLIAM PAUL, who was executed for High-Treaſon.

MR. PAUL was born of reputable parents, near Lutterworth, in Leiceſterſhire, and having been educated for the pulpit, took the degree of batchelor of arts at St. John's College, Cambridge. After officiating as a chaplain for two clergymen, the biſhop of Oxford preſented him to the vicarage of Orton, in his native county, to which he was inſtituted in the year 1709.

The rebels having reached Preſton, Mr. Paul began a journey to meet them; but was apprehended on ſuſpicion, and carried before Colonel Noel, a juſtice of the peace, who finding no juſt cauſe of detention, diſmiſſed him; on which he continued his journey to Preſton, where he read prayers to the rebels three days ſucceſſively, and prayed for the pretender, by the name of King James, in the pariſh church.

A ſhort time before the national forces reached Preſton, Mr. Paul quitted that place, and coming to London, diſguiſed himſelf by wearing coloured cloaths, a ſword, a laced hat, and a full-bottomed wig.

But he had not been long in this diſguiſe before he was met by Mr. Bird, a juſtice of the peace for Leiceſterſhire, who cauſed him to be taken into cuſtody, and carried to the houſe of the duke of Devonſhire, who ſent him to the ſecretary of ſtate for examination; but as he refuſed to make any confeſſion, he was delivered to

the cuſtody of one of the king's meſſengers, with whom he remained about a fortnight, and was then committed to Newgate.

He was arraigned at Weſtminſter on the 31ſt of May, and pleaded "not guilty," on which he was remanded to Newgate, and had time allowed him to prepare his defence. On his return to priſon he ſent for a friend, to whom he ſaid, "What muſt I do? I have been this day ar-"raigned, and pleaded not guilty; but that will "not avail, for too much will be proved againſt "me." To this his friend replied "I will per-"ſuade you to nothing: but in my opinion, the "beſt way is to confeſs your fault, aſk pardon, "and throw yourſelf on the king's mercy." Mr. Paul ſaid his council adviſed the ſame, and he was reſolved to do ſo: and when he was again brought to the bar, he retracted his former plea, and pleaded guilty, in conſequence of which ſentence of death was paſſed on him.

Being ſent back to priſon, he made every poſſible intereſt for the preſervation of his life; for he ſeemed to have a moſt ſingular dread of death, particularly when attended with ſuch diſgraceful circumſtances as he had reaſon to apprehend. He wrote a petition to the king, another to the lord chief juſtice, and letters to the archbiſhop of Canterbury, with other letters to clergymen; in all of which he acknowledges his crime, and his change of ſentiments: and intercedes for mercy, in terms of the moſt abject humiliation.

In a letter to a female relation he ſays, "I am "among the number of thoſe that are to ſuffer "next Friday.—I cannot think of dying the death "of a dog, by the hands of a common execu-"tioner, with any manner of patience. Tranſ-"por-

" portation, perpetual impriſonment, or any " other condition of life, will be infinitely pre- " ferable to ſo barbarous and inſupportable a " way of ending it; and means muſt be found " for preventing, or I ſhall anticipate, the igno- " miny of the halter, by laying violent hands on " myſelf. Give Mr. C——r to underſtand that " he may promiſe any thing that he ſhall think " fit in my name; and that his royal highneſs " the prince, and his council, ſhall have no cauſe " to repent of their mercy to me."

All Mr. Paul's petitions, however, proved fruitleſs; he was ordered for execution, and was attended by a nonjuring clergyman, who endeavoured to inſpire him with an idea of the juſtice of the cauſe for which he was to yield his life: he was, however, dreadfully affected till within a few days of his death; when he began to aſſume a greater degree of courage.

He was executed at Tyburn, on the 18th of July, 1716, being attended by a nonjuring clergyman, having declined the aſſiſtance of the ordinary of Newgate. Juſt before the cart drew away he made a ſpeech, of which the following is a copy.

" Good People,

I am juſt going to make my appearance in the other world, where I muſt give an account of all the actions of my paſt life; and though I have endeavoured to make my peace with God, by ſincerely repenting of all my ſins, yet foraſmuch as ſeveral of them were of a public nature, I take it to be my duty to declare here, in the face of the world, my hearty abhorrence and deteſtation of them.

And

And firſt, I aſk pardon of God and the King, for having violated my loyalty, by taking moſt abominable oaths, in defence of uſurpation, againſt my lawful ſovereign King James the Third.

And as I aſk pardon of all whom I have injured or offended, ſo I do eſpecially deſire forgiveneſs of all thoſe whom I have ſcandalized by pleading guilty. I am ſenſible it is a baſe and diſhonourable action, that it is inconſiſtent with my duty to the king, and an entire ſurrender of my loyalty. Human frailty, and too great a deſire of life, together with the perſuaſion of ſeveral, who pretended to be my friends, were the occaſion of it. I truſt God of his infinite mercy has forgiven me, and I hope all good chriſtians will.

You ſee, my countrymen, by my habit, that I die a ſon, though a very unworthy one, of the Church of England; but I would not have you think I am a member of the Schiſmatical Church, whoſe biſhops ſet themſelves up in oppoſition to thoſe orthodox fathers, who were unlawfully and invalidly deprived by the Prince of Orange. I declare that I renounce that communion, and that I die a dutiful and faithful member of the Nonjuring Church, which has kept itſelf free from rebellion and ſchiſm, and has preſerved and maintained true orthodox principles both as to church and ſtate: and I deſire the clergy and all members of the Revolution Church, to conſider what bottom they ſtand upon, when their ſucceſſion is grounded upon an unlawful and invalid deprivation of Catholic Biſhops, the only foundation of which deprivation is a pretended act of parliament.

Having aſked forgiveneſs for myſelf, I come now to forgive others. I pardon thoſe who, un-

der a notion of friendſhip, perſuaded me to plead guilty. I heartily forgive all my moſt inveterate enemies, eſpecially the Elector of Hanover, my Lord Townſend, and others, who have been inſtrumental in promoting my death. Father, forgive them! Lord Jeſus have mercy upon them! and lay not this ſin to their charge.

The next thing I have to do, Chriſtian friends, is, to exhort you all to return to your duty. Remember that King James the Third is your only rightful ſovereign, by the laws of the land, and the conſtitution of the kingdom; and therefore, if you would perform the duty of juſtice to him which is due to all mankind, you are obliged, in conſcience, to do all you can to reſtore him to his crown: for it is his right; and no man in the world, beſides himſelf, can claim a title to it. And as it is your duty to ſerve him, ſo it is your intereſt; for till he is reſtored, the nation can never be happy. You ſee what miſeries and calamities have befallen this nation by the revolution; and I believe you are now convinced, by woeful experience, that ſwerving from God's laws, and thereby putting yourſelves out of his protection, is not the way to ſecure you from thoſe evils and misfortunes you are afraid of in this world. Before the revolution, you thought your religion, liberties, and properties in danger; and I pray you to conſider, how you have preſerved them by rebelling: are they not ten times more precarious than ever? who can ſay he is certain of his life or eſtate, when he conſiders the proceedings of the preſent adminiſtration? and as for your religion, is it not evident that the revolution, inſtead of keeping out Popery, has let in Atheiſm? do not hereſies abound every day, and are not the teachers of falſe doctrine patroniſed by the

the great men in the government? this ſhews the kindneſs and affection they have for the church; and to give you another inſtance of the reſpect and reverence they have for it, you are now going to ſee a prieſt of the Church of England murdered for doing his duty; for it is not me they ſtrike at ſo particularly, but it is through me they would wound the prieſthood, bring a diſgrace upon the gown, and a ſcandal upon my ſacred function. But they would do well to remember, that he who deſpiſes Chriſt's prieſts, deſpiſes Chriſt; and he who deſpiſes him, deſpiſes him that ſent him.

And now beloved, if you have any regard to your country, which lies bleeding under theſe dreadful extremities, bring the King to his undoubted right: that is the only way to be freed from theſe misfortunes, and to ſecure all thoſe rights and privileges which are in danger at preſent. King James has promiſed to protect and defend the Church of England, he has given his royal word to conſent to ſuch laws which you yourſelves ſhall think neceſſary to be made for its preſervation. And his Majeſty is a prince of that juſtice, virtue, and honour, that you have no reaſon to doubt of the performance of his royal promiſe. He ſtudies nothing ſo much as to make you all eaſy and happy, and whenever he comes to his kingdom, I doubt not but you will be ſo.

I ſhall be heartily glad, good people, if what I have ſaid has any effect upon you, ſo as to be inſtrumental in making you perform your duty. It is out of my power now to do any thing more to ſerve the King, than by employing ſome of the few minutes I have to live in this world, in praying Almighty God to ſhower down his bleſſings ſpiritual, and temporal, upon his head, to protect

tect and reſtore him, to be favourable to his undertaking, to proſper him here, and to reward him hereafter. I beſeech the ſame infinite goodneſs to protect and defend the Church of England, and to reſtore it to all its juſt rights and privileges; and laſtly, I pray God to have mercy upon me, pardon my ſins, and receive my ſoul into his everlaſting kingdom, that with the Patriarchs, Prophets, Apoſtles, and Martyrs, I may praiſe and magnify him for ever and ever. Amen.

As to my body, brethren, I have taken no care of it, for I value not that barbarous part of my ſentence, of being cut down and quartered. When I am once gone, I ſhall be out of the reach of my enemies; and I wiſh I had quarters enough to ſend to every pariſh in the kingdom, to teſtify that a clergyman of the Church of England was martyred for being loyal to his King.

July 13, 1716. WILLIAM PAUL.

Particulars reſpecting JOHN HALL, Eſq. who was executed for High-Treaſon.

JOHN HALL, Eſq. was a juſtice of the peace for the county of Northumberland, and having been taken priſoner with the other rebels at Preſton, was brought to London, and indicted for having joined, aided, and abetted the rebels.

Two evidences depoſed that he was ſeen at different places, with the rebels: but in his defence he ſaid that having been to a meeting of the juſtices at Plainfield, he had lodged at a friend's houſe, and that on the following day, while he was ſtooping on his horſes neck, to ſcreen himſelf from the tempeſtuous weather, himſelf and his ſervant were ſurrounded by the rebels, who forced them away; and that he was unarmed,

and had only ſeven ſhillings and ſixpence in his poſſeſſion.

Though this circumſtance was ſworn to by Mr. Hall's ſervant, yet the court, in the charge to the jury, obſerved that " if a man was ſeen with " rebels, yet if it appeared that he had frequent " opportunities of eſcaping, and did not do it, " but continued by his preſence to abet and " comfort them, it was treaſon within the mean- " ing of the law."

Now as it appeared in evidence that Mr. Hall had liberty to ride out when he pleaſed, and did not ſeem to be reſtrained, the jury found him guilty; and when the court paſſed ſentence on him he ſaid " God's will be done."

After conviction he was attended by a non-juring clergyman; and behaved with manly fortitude under his misfortunes: however he made ſuch intereſt that he obtained five ſhort reprieves, and might poſſibly have been pardoned; but that having written the following ſpeech ſome weeks before his death, the knowledge thereof is ſuppoſed to have reached the court; for when a nobleman made application for a pardon, he was anſwered, " By no means my good lord: it " were a pity Mr. Hall ſhould loſe the opportu- " nity of leaving ſuch a ſpeech behind him, as " he gives out will raiſe the ſpirits of the whole " nation to be of the ſame mind with him, and " will be inſtrumental in bringing in the perſon " whom he calls his lawful ſovereign king James " the third."

Mr. Hall was executed at the ſame time and place with Mr. Paul; and a few minutes before he was turned off, he delivered a paper to the ſheriff, which is as follows:

" Friends

"Friends, Brethren, and Countrymen,

I Am come here to die, for the ſake of God, my king, and my country; and I heartily rejoice that I am counted worthy of ſo great an honour: for let not any of you think that I am come to a ſhameful and ignominious end: the truth and juſtice of the cauſe for which I ſuffer, makes my death a duty, a virtue, and an honour. Remember that I lay down my life for aſſerting the right of my only lawful ſovereign king James the third; that I offer myſelf a victim for the liberties and happineſs of my dear country, and my beloved fellow-ſubjects; that I fall a ſacrifice to tyranny, oppreſſion, and uſurpation. In ſhort, conſider that I ſuffer in the defence of the command of God, and the laws, and hereditary conſtitution of the land; and then know, and be aſſured, that I am not a traytor, but a martyr.

I declare that I die a true and ſincere member of the church of England, but not of the revolution ſchiſmatical church, whoſe biſhops have ſo rebelliouſly abandoned the king, and ſo ſhamefully given up the rights of the church, by ſubmitting to the unlawful invalid lay-deprivations of the prince of Orange. The communion I die in, is that of the true catholic nonjuring church of England, and I pray God to proſper and increaſe it, and to grant, (if it be his good pleaſure) that it may riſe again, and flouriſh.

I heartily beg pardon of all whom I have in any manner, and at any time injured and offended. I do particularly implore forgiveneſs of God and my king, for having ſo far ſwerved from my duty, as to comply with the uſurpation, in ſwearing allegiance to it, and acting in public poſts by the uſurper's commiſſions, which were void of all power and authority. God knows my heart, I

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did this at firſt through ignorance and error, but after I had recollected myſelf, and informed my judgment better, I repented, and drew my ſword for the king, and now ſubmit myſelf to this violent death for his ſake. I heartily pray God my patience and my ſufferings may atone for my former crime; and this I beg through the merits, mediation, and ſufferings of my deareſt Saviour Jeſus Chriſt.

I do ſincerely forgive all my enemies, eſpecially thoſe who have either cauſed or increaſed the deſtruction in church or ſtate; I pray God have mercy upon them, and ſpare them, becauſe they are the works of his own hands, and becauſe they are redeemed with his ſon's moſt precious blood. I do, particularly, forgive from the bottom of my heart, the elector of Brunſwick, who murders me; my unjuſt pretended judges and jury, who convicted and condemned me; Mr. Patten and Carnaby, evidences who ſwore againſt me at my trial. And I do here declare, upon the words of a dying man (and all my Northumberland fellow priſoners can teſtify the ſame) that the evidence they gave was ſo far from being the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, that in relation to my indictment, they ſwore not one true thing againſt me, but many abſolute falſhoods. I pray God forgive them, for I am ſure I do.

Laſtly, I forgive all who had a hand in the ſurrender at Preſton, for they have ſurrendered away my life; and I would to God that were the only bad conſequence of it. But alas! it is too plain that the ſurrenderers not only ruined many of his majeſty's brave and faithful ſubjects, but gave up their king and country into the bargain:

for it was then in their power to have reſtored the king with triumph to his throne, and thereby to have made us a happy people. We had repulſed our enemies at every attack, and were ready, willing, and able to have attacked them.

On our ſide, even our common men were brave, courageous, and reſolute; on the other hand, theirs were directly the contrary, inſomuch, that after they had run away from our firſt fire, they could never be brought ſo much as to endeavour to ſtand a ſecond. This I think myſelf obliged in juſtice to mention, that Mr. Wills may not impoſe upon the world, as if he and his troops had conquered us, and gained the victory; for the truth is, after we had conquered them, our ſuperiors thought fit to capitulate and ruin us; I wiſh them God's and the king's pardon for it.

May it pleaſe God to bleſs, preſerve, and reſtore our only rightful and lawful ſovereign king James the third; may he direct his counſels, and proſper his arms; may he bring him to his kingdom, and ſet the crown upon his head.

May he protect him from the malice of his enemies, and defend him from thoſe, who for a reward would ſlay him innocent! may he grant him in health and wealth long to live; may he ſtrengthen him that he may vanquiſh and overcome all his enemies; and finally, when it pleaſes his infinite wiſdom to take him out of this world, may he take him to himſelf, and reward him with an everlaſting crown of glory in the next.

Theſe, my beloved countrymen, are the ſincere prayers, theſe the laſt words of me who am now a dying perſon; and if you have any regard to the laſt breath of one who is juſt going out of the world, let me beg of you to be dutiful, obedient, and loyal, to your only ſovereign liege lord,

lord, king James the third; be ever ready to ſerve him, and be ſure you never fail to uſe all your endeavour to reſtore him; and whatever the conſequence be, remember that you have a good cauſe, and a gracious God, and expect a recompence from him.

To that God, the God of truth and holineſs, the rewarder of all who ſuffer for righteouſneſs ſake, I commend my ſoul, beſeeching him to have mercy upon it, for the ſake of my dear Redeemer, and merciful Saviour, Jeſus Chriſt our Lord. Amen, Amen, Amen.

July 13, 1716. JOHN HALL.

Poſtſcript.

I might reaſonably have expected my life would have been ſaved, ſince I had obtained five reprieves; but I find that the duke of Hanover, and his evil counſellors who guide him, have ſo little virtue and honour themſelves, that they are reſolved not to ſpare my life, becauſe I would not purchaſe it upon baſe and diſhonourable terms. I have reaſon to think that at firſt I could have ſecured my life and fortune, if I would have pleaded guilty; and I doubt not but I might ſince have obtained favour, if I would have petitioned in a vile, ſcandalous manner: but I was reſolved to do nothing whereby I ſhould have diſowned my king, and denied my principles; and I thank my good God, both for inſpiring me with this holy reſolution, and for giving me the grace to perform it.

July 13, 1716. JOHN HALL.

Having now finiſhed our narrative of perſons executed on account of the rebellion, we will make ſome general remarks.

The crime of rebellion is of a moſt atrocious nature, becauſe, in caſe of its ſucceſs, it tends to involve the innocent in one general ruin with the guilty. It overſets the eſtabliſhed and legal forms of government, and introduces anarchy and confuſion, where all before was order and decorum. The rebellion of which we are writing was fomented againſt a prince, ſeated on the throne by the right of ſucceſſion, confirmed by the laws of the land.

There is, indeed, ſomething of an excuſe to be offered for ſome of thoſe who engaged in it, preferably to others. Thoſe who were bred Roman catholics might naturally be ſuppoſed to wiſh for a prince of their own perſuaſion to reign over them. But, good God! for Proteſtants to think of being governed by a Popiſh prince, what an abſurdity! Do not we know that it is one great maxim in the Roman catholic religion, to keep no faith with heretics? And what ſort of treatment could Proteſtants expect from a prince whoſe religion teaches him that there is no ſalvation without the pale of his own church, and conſequently that his ſubjects are doomed to everlaſting perdition?

Power is a faſcinating thing; and princes in general are apt enough to ſtretch it to the utmoſt. This being the common caſe, it can be little matter of wonder that a Popiſh prince ſhould be an abſolute tyrant over that ſubject whom he conſiders as already reprobated by heaven!

From the guilty madneſs and horrid fate of the unhappy malefactors before us, let us learn gratitude to heaven, for the reformation, which relieved us from the errors and blindneſs of Popery: let us be thankful that the laws of our country have eſtabliſhed the regal ſucceſſion in a family edu-

educated in the rational doctrines of the Protestant religion: a religion that, while it seeks heaven by the ready road, allows full liberty of conscience to all men to worship God according to the dictates of their own minds.

We have no more right to quarrel with a MAN for differing from us in sentiments, than for the colour of his eye-brows: but Britons should be cautious never to think of admitting a SOVEREIGN to rule over them whose difference of faith may tempt him to invade their liberties civil or religious!

Case of JOHN HAMILTON, Esq. who was tried in Scotland for Murder, and beheaded.

THIS offender was born in the county of Clydesdale, and was related to the ducal family of Hamilton. His parents, to whom he was an only son, sent him to Glasgow to study the law; but the young gentleman's disposition leading him to the profession of arms, his friends exerted their interest to procure a commission, but the intervention of the crime of which we are about to relate the particulars, prevented their generous intention taking effect.

Young Hamilton soon becoming connected with some abandoned young gentlemen at Edinburgh, he lost considerable sums at gaming; and going to his parents for more, they supplied him for the present, but said they would not advance him any farther sums while he continued his dissipated course of life.

Being possessed of this money, Hamilton went to a village near Glasgow, to meet his companions

nions at a public-houſe kept by Thomas Arkle. Having drank and gamed for ſeveral ſucceſſive days and nights, Hamilton's companions left him while he was aſleep, leaving him to diſcharge the bill, which exceeding his ability, a quarrel enſued between him and Arkle, and while they contended, Arkle ſtripped Hamilton's ſword from the ſcabbard. The latter immediately ran away, but finding he had no ſcabbard to his ſword, he inſtantly went back to the houſe, when Arkle calling him ſeveral ſcandalous names, he ſtabbed him ſo that he inſtantly expired.

The daughter of Arkle being preſent, attempted to ſeize Hamilton; in doing which ſhe tore off the ſkirt of his coat, which was left on the floor, together with his ſword, on his effecting a ſecond eſcape. This daughter of Arkle was almoſt blind; but her keeping the ſword and the ſkirt of the coat, proved the means of bringing Hamilton to juſtice.

The murderer having gone to Leith, embarked on board a ſhip, and landed in Holland, where he continued two years; but his parents dying in the interval, he returned to Scotland, when he was taken into cuſtody on account of the murder.

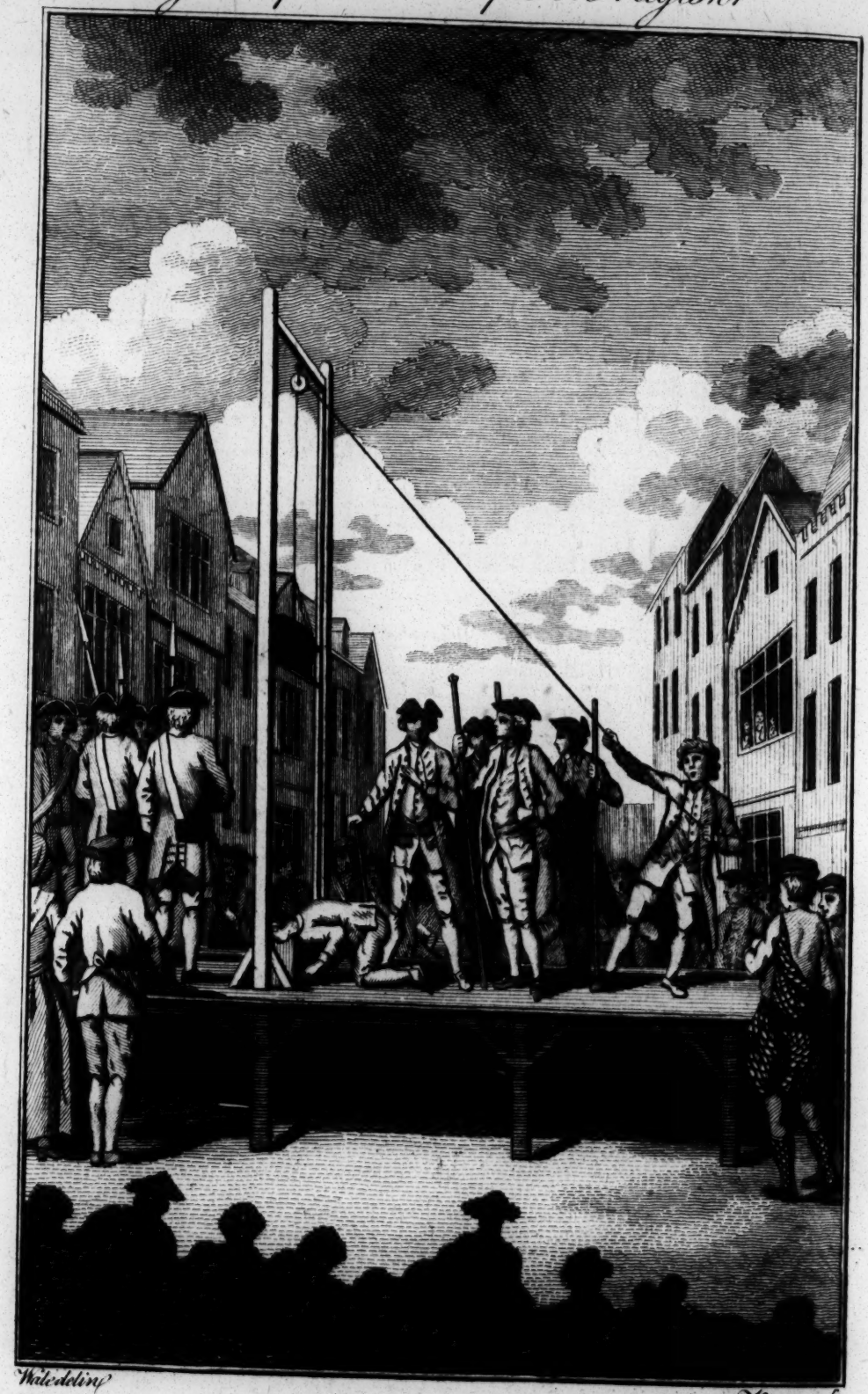
On his trial he pleaded that he was intoxicated at the time the fact was committed, to which he was inſtigated by the extreme ill uſage he had received from Arkle. The jury, not allowing the force of theſe arguments, found him guilty, and he was ſentenced to be beheaded by the MAIDEN, to give a deſcription of which inſtrument may be grateful to our readers.

The town of Halifax in Yorkſhire having been antiently famous for the manufacture of woollen cloths, a law was made for the protection of the property of the manufacturers, by which it was

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Engraved for The Malefactors Register.



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Execution of John Hamilton Esq.r by the Machine called **THE MAIDEN**, *at Edinburgh.*

ordained that perſons convicted of ſtealing cloth from the tenter-grounds, ſhould be executed immediately after being convicted before two juſtices of the peace *.

The machine by which perſons thus convicted were executed, was conſtructed in the following manner: "Two ſtrong wooden beams were fixed "on a ſcaffold, and between them, in a tranſ- "verſe form, ran another beam, to the lower "ſide of which was fixed a ſharp inſtrument in "the form of a chopping-knife, with a large "quantity of lead on the upper part. The cri- "minal put his neck between the two ſide-beams, "and the croſs-beam being drawn by a pulley, "was ſuffered to fall down; and the head was "ſevered from the body in a moment."

The earl of Morton, regent of Scotland, returning from the court of Queen Elizabeth in the year 1574, ſaw this machine at Halifax, and had a model taken of it, with a view to the execution of ſuch of the Scottiſh nobility as ſhould oppoſe his meaſures; but it happened that his lordſhip was the firſt who ſuffered by this mode of execution; whence it was called the MAIDEN.

After this many perſons of rank in Scotland were executed by this machine; but Mr. Hamilton, of whom we are now writing, was the laſt who yielded his life in this manner; and the inſtrument of death is now kept in a room adjacent to the council-chamber of Edinburgh.

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* Whatever neceſſity there might appear for enacting the law in queſtion, we cannot but lament that any Engliſhman ſhould ſuffer without the formality of a trial by jury; a practice that is the boaſt of this country, and the envy of others.

After Mr. Hamilton received ſentence of death, his friends made great intereſt to procure a pardon; but their endeavours proving ineffectual, he ſuffered death, by the mode abovementioned, on the 30th of June, 1716.

At the place of execution he owned that he had killed Arkle, but preſumed to think he was juſtified on the principle of ſelf-defence.

Mr. Hamilton's caſe will teach us to reflect on the ſad conſequences of keeping bad company, and an attachment to gaming. But for theſe vices, he might have lived happy in himſelf, and a credit to the worthy family from which he was deſcended. The youth who will devote thoſe hours to the gaming-table, which he ought to employ in the honeſt advancement of his fortune, can expect only to be reduced to beggary at the beſt: but in a thouſand inſtances, as well as the preſent, the conſequences have been much more fatal.

Hence let young gentlemen learn to ſhun the gaming-table as they would a peſtilence; to proceed in the plain path of honour and integrity, and to know that there can be no true happineſs in a departure from the line of virtue!

Some Account of the Life and Trial of JAMES GOODMAN, who was hanged for Horſe-ſtealing.

THIS offender, who was about thirty-two years of age at the time of his unhappy exit, was a native of Little Harwood, in Buckinghamſhire, and ſerved his time to a carpenter at Ayleſbury. After he was out of his time, he and two other young men agreed to have a veniſon

ſon paſty, and make merry; in conſequence of which they ſtole a deer; but being taken into cuſtody, one of them turned evidence, whereupon Goodman and the other were impriſoned a year in Ayleſbury goal.

After his enlargement he married and entered into buſineſs, which he carried on with ſucceſs for about nine years; but becoming fond of idle company, he was ſoon ſo reduced in circumſtances that he brought himſelf and family to ruin.

Coming to London, he got into company with one Stephens, with whom he agreed to commit robberies on the highway. Purſuant to this plan they ſtopped Philip White between Stratford and Ilford in Eſſex, and robbed him of his horſe, one ſhilling, and his ſpurs.

Four days after this robbery Mr. White ſaw Goodman on his horſe at Bow, in the company of Stephens, who was likewiſe on horſeback. Hereupon Mr. White ſent his ſervant to demand the horſe; on which the robbers galloped off, but were immediately purſued by Mr. White and his man. Finding themſelves hard preſſed, they quitted their horſes, and ran into the field; on which Mr. White gave his ſervant a gun, and bid him follow them. He did ſo; on which one of them fired twice, and ſaid "d—n it, we'll kill or "be killed; we won't be taken alive; our lives "are as good as theirs." On this Mr. White's ſervant fired his gun, which was loaded with pebble ſtones, and ſtriking Goodman on the head, he was ſo ſtunned that he was eaſily taken; and ſome other perſons now coming up, one of them drew a hanger, and purſued Stephens, who ſubmitting after a ſhort reſiſtance, both the priſoners were c[illegible]eyed to Newgate.

Stephens having been admitted an evidence againſt Goodman, the latter was brought to his trial, when he endeavoured to prove that he was in another place when the robbery was committed, and that he had purchaſed Mr. White's horſe: but the jury found him guilty, as they did not believe the teſtimony of his witneſſes.

After conviction he was put into the bail-dock, in order to receive ſentence; but the night being dark, and being aſſiſted by ſome other priſoners, he got over the ſpikes, and, though he was loaded with irons, effected his eſcape.

But it was not long before he was re-taken, owing to a very ſingular circumſtance. While in cuſtody he delivered ſome money to a carrier to take into the country to a woman with whom he had cohabited; but the carrier, conſidering his ſituation, kept the money for his own uſe.

Wherefore, about a month after his eſcape, Goodman went to an alehouſe in Holborn, and ſent for a lawyer, to concert with him how to recover the money of the carrier: but ſome perſons in the houſe happening to know him, went to Newgate, and informed the keepers where he was; on which he was taken into cuſtody after a deſperate reſiſtance; and at the end of the next ſeſſions at the Old Bailey, he received ſentence of death.

While he lay in this deplorable ſituation he acknowledged his guilt, confeſſed he had committed many robberies, lamented the iniquities of his paſt life, and wiſhed he could make reparation to thoſe whom he had injured. He was executed at Tyburn on the 12th of March, 1716.

The fate of this malefactor will afford an uſeful leſſon to perſons ſomewhat advanced in life. After having been nine years in a ſucceſsful buſi-

neſs, the keeping of bad company induced him to his ruin. Hence we may learn the folly of departing from the ſober comforts of domeſtic felicity, to keep company with drunkards, and riot in debauchery. The circumſtance of Goodman's being ſeen at Bow, on the very horſe he had ſtolen but a few days before, on the ſame road, ſhews the folly that, almoſt in every inſtance, attends thieves. They are generally detected by ſome omiſſion or careleſsneſs of their own, which even a child would bluſh to be guilty of: but the fact is, that villainy is frequently off its guard, and the eye of Providence is ever watchful to bring the guilty to juſtice.

This doctrine cannot be ſet in a clearer light than by Goodman's going to adviſe with a lawyer how to recover the money of the carrier; not reflecting that he himſelf was a dead man, in the eye of the law, at the very time of making this application, which led ſo ſoon to his own deſtruction. Hence we ſee the emphatical force of that text of ſcripture, "The wicked is taken in his "own ſnare."

Short Narrative of the Caſe of Joseph Still, who was hanged for Murder.

THIS man came to London in ſearch of a livelihood, and for ſome time maintained himſelf by ſelling poultry in the ſtreets; but growing weary of that employment, he enliſted into the army, in which he continued nine years; but having obtained his diſcharge, he became acquainted with a ſet of thieves who committed depredations in the neighbourhood of London; and

being apprehended, he was tried at the Old Bailey, and whipped.

Soon after he obtained his liberty, he returned to his former way of life; and being taken into cuſtody in Hertfordſhire, he was tried, convicted, and puniſhed by burning in the hand. After this he began the practice of robbing higlers on the highway, and he obtained the appellation of Chicken Joe, from his ſingular dexterity in that employment.

After continuing in this way of life a conſiderable time he commenced footpad, and committed a great number of robberies on the roads near town, eſcaping detection for a long while, on account of his wearing a maſk over his face.

At length almoſt all his companions were hanged, and he was reduced to ſuch diſtreſs that he went once more on the road to ſupply himſelf with the means of procuring the neceſſaries of life. Having drank at an alehouſe in Kingſland-Road till his ſpirits were ſomewhat elevated, he proceeded to Stoke-Newington, and after ſauntering a while in the fields, without meeting with any perſon whom he durſt venture to attack, he went into Queen Elizabeth's Walk, behind the church, where he ſaw a gentleman's ſervant whoſe money he demanded. The ſervant being determined not to be robbed, conteſted the matter with Still, and a battle enſuing, the villain drew a knife, and ſtabbed the footman through the body.

He immediately ran away; but ſome people coming by while the footman was ſenſible enough to tell them what had happened, Still was purſued, taken, and brought to the ſpot where the other was expiring; and being ſearched, the bloody knife with which he had committed the deed was found in his pocket. The man died

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after declaring that Still was the murderer; and the latter was committed to Newgate; and being indicted at the Old Bailey, the jury did not ſcruple to find him guilty, in conſequence of which he received ſentence of death, and was executed on Stamford-Hill, on the 22d of March, 1717.

The progreſſion of this malefactor ſeems to have been very gradual, from ſmaller to greater crimes, till at length his life paid the forfeit for one of the moſt enormous. Hence let us be taught the danger of indulging the leaſt propenſity to an evil act. The commiſſion of one crime naturally leads to that of another, till the criminal is involved in diſtreſs and miſery, from which there is no hope of relief!

Learn then to tread in honour's path,
Nor quit the laws of God;
So may you hope to ſcape his wrath,
Nor dread his vengeful rod.

Narrative of the Caſe of FERDINANDO, Marquis de PALEOTTI, who was hanged for the Murder of his Servant.

THE marquis de Paleotti was born at Bologna in Italy, and in the reign of Queen Anne was a colonel in the Imperial army.

The cauſe of his coming to England aroſe from the following circumſtance. The duke of Shrewſbury being at Rome in the latter end of King William's reign, fell in love with, and paid his addreſſes to, the ſiſter of Paleotti; and the lady following the duke to Augſburgh in Germany, they

they were there married, after ſhe had firſt renounced the Roman catholic religion. The dutcheſs reſiding with her huſband in England, and the marquis having quitted the imperial army, on the peace of Utrecht, he came to this country to ſee his ſiſter.

Being fond of an extravagant courſe of life, and attached to gaming, he ſoon ran in debt for conſiderable ſums. His ſiſter paid his debts for ſome time, till ſhe found it would be a burthenſome, and endleſs taſk. Though ſhe declined to aſſiſt him as uſual he continued his former courſe of life till he was impriſoned for debt; but his ſiſter privately procured his liberty, and he was diſcharged without knowing who had conferred the favour on him.

After his enlargement he adopted his old plan of extravagance; and being one day walking in the ſtreet, he directed his ſervant, an Italian, to go and borrow ſome money. The ſervant, having met with frequent denials, declined going; on which the marquis drew his ſword, and killed him on the ſpot.

Being inſtantly apprehended, he was committed to priſon, tried at the next ſeſſions, and being convicted on full evidence, he received ſentence of death. The duke of Shrewſbury being dead, and his dutcheſs having little intereſt or acquaintance in England, it appears as if no endeavours were uſed to ſave the marquis, who ſuffered at Tyburn, on the 17th of March, 1718.

After ſentence he lamented that the churches of England did not afford a ſanctuary to murderers, as thoſe of Italy do; and he ſeemed to think it a great hardſhip that he ſhould ſuffer death as a common malefactor, for murdering his ſervant.

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Excluſive of this, his behaviour was extremely proper. He petitioned the recorder that he might ſuffer alone, before the other malefactors; and the ſheriff gave orders accordingly. When the day of execution drew near he wiſhed to protract his term of life even for a few hours; but this was a favour that could not be granted, as the orders were poſitive; wherefore he was carried from Newgate to the place of execution ſoon after ſix in the morning, and having made a ſhort ſpeech in French, he delivered a letter to be given to his ſiſter, in which he implored her pardon for the repeated trouble he had occaſioned her.

The marquis of Paleotti ſeems to have fallen a ſacrifice to his own ungovernable paſſions, joined to the prejudice of education. How abſurd is that religion of Rome which permits the church to be the ſanctuary of the murderer! and how thankful ought proteſtants to be, that their lives cannot be taken away, and the murderer ſcreened, through the chicanery of prieſtcraft. We deem the church the temple of the living God: and ſhall this temple be profaned by the protection of murderers? Strangely ridiculous is the idea!

From the fate of Paleotti and the late earl of Ferrers, we may learn that in the puniſhment of crimes of this enormous magnitude, the law makes no diſtinction between thoſe of very exalted, and very inferior rank; and that the peer and the peaſant muſt equally ſubmit to its awards.

In this inſtance we ſee two reaſons for being thankful that we are born in this land of liberty: our religion is purer, and our laws are more equitable than thoſe of any people in the univerſe. While we are grateful to God for theſe bounties,

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may we be anxious to tranſmit them, unimpaired, to the lateſt poſterity!

The remarkable Caſe of JAMES SHEPPARD, who ſuffered death for High-Treaſon.

THIS malefactor having been much the ſubject of public converſation, and his crime being of a very ſingular kind, we ſhall endeavour, in our account of him, to give every poſſible ſatisfaction to the reader.

James Sheppard was the ſon of Thomas Sheppard, a capital glover in Southwark; but his father dying when he was about five years of age, he was ſent to ſchool in Hertfordſhire, whence his uncle, Dr. Hinchcliffe, removed him to Mitcham in Surry, and afterwards to Saliſbury, where he remained at School three years. Being at Saliſbury at the time of the rebellion he imbibed the principles of his ſchool-fellows, many of whom were favourers of the pretender; and he was confirmed in his ſentiments by reading ſome pamphlets which were then put into his hands.

When he quitted Saliſbury Dr. Hinchliffe put him apprentice to Mr. Scott, a coach-painter, in Devonſhire-ſtreet, near Biſhopſgate; and he continued in this ſituation about fourteen months, when he was apprehended for the fact which coſt him his life.

Sheppard having conceived the idea that it would be a praiſe-worthy action to kill the king, wrote a letter, which he intended for a nonjuring miniſter of the name of Leake; but miſtaking the ſpelling, he directed it "to the Reverend Mr. "Heath."

" Heath." This letter, a copy of which follows, he carried to Mr. Leake's houſe.

" Sir,

FROM the many diſcontents viſible throughout this kingdom, I infer, that if the prince now reigning could be by death removed, our king being here he might be ſettled on his throne, without much loſs of blood. For the more ready effecting of this, I propoſe that if any gentleman will pay for my paſſage into Italy, and if our friends will intruſt one ſo young with letters of invitation to his majeſty, I will, on his arrival, ſmite the uſurper in his palace. In this confuſion, if ſufficient forces may be raiſed, his majeſty may appear; if not, he may retreat or conceal himſelf till a fitter opportunity. Neither is it preſumptuous to hope that this may ſucceed, if we conſider how eaſy it is to cut the thread of human life; how great confuſion the death of a prince occaſions in the moſt peaceful nation, and how mutinous the people are, how deſirous of a change. But we will ſuppoſe the worſt, that I am ſeized and by torture examined. Now that this may endanger none but myſelf, it will be neceſſary that the gentleman who defrays my charges to Italy, leave England before my departure; that I be ignorant of his majeſty's abode; that I lodge with ſome whig; that you abſcond, and that this be communicated to none. But be the event as it will, I can expect nothing leſs than a moſt cruel death; which that I may the better ſupport, it will be requiſite that from my arrival till the attempt, I every day receive the holy ſacrament from one who ſhall be ignorant of the deſign. JAMES SHEPPARD."

Mr. Leake was abſent when this letter arrived, but on his return he read it, on which he ſaid to his daughter and maid-ſervant that it was a moſt villainous letter, and not fit to be kept; and, in the height of his reſentment, he threw it into the fire and went up into his ſtudy; but coming down ſoon afterwards, his daughter told him that ſhe had recollected that the boy who had brought the letter ſaid he would call for an anſwer on the following Monday.

Hereupon Mr. Leake determined to make the affair known to Sir John Fryer, a neighbouring magiſtrate, which he did the following morning, when Sir John adviſed him to take the party into cuſtody when he ſhould return for the anſwer. Sheppard came at the time that he had promiſed, when Mr. Leake ſent for a conſtable, and had him apprehended.

Being carried before Sir John Fryer, he was aſked if he had delivered a letter at Mr. Leake's on the preceding Friday directed to the Rev. Mr. Heath. He anſwered in the affirmative; and being aſked if he had a copy of that letter, he ſaid he had no copy about him, but he believed he could remember it, ſo as to write a copy. This being done, and he having deliberately read and ſigned what he had written, was committed to the Compter.

Three gentlemen were now ſent to the houſe of the priſoner's maſter, and being ſhewn his trunk, they found, among ſome other papers, a copy of the letter he had left at Mr. Leake's, which differed very little from that written at Sir John Fryer's, only that theſe words were added; "How "meritorious an act will it be to free theſe nations "from an uſurpation that they have lain under "theſe nine and twenty years:" and it was in-

ſinuated

ſinuated that he thought it requiſite that while his majeſty (the pretender) ſhould be abſent from Avignon, " ſome perſon ſhould be found re-
" ſembling him, that ſhould perſonate him there,
" leſt the rumour of his departure from Avig-
" non ſhould awaken this inquiſitive and ſuſpi-
" cious court."

Soon after Sheppard's commitment he was twice examined at the office of lord Sunderland, then ſecretary of ſtate, when he attempted to juſtify his conduct, and readily ſigned what he had before written.

When he was brought to his trial he behaved in the moſt firm and compoſed manner; and after the evidence againſt him was given, and the jury had brought him in guilty of high treaſon, he was aſked why ſentence ſhould not be paſſed on him according to law, when he ſaid, " He could
" not hope for mercy from a prince whom he
" would not own." Then the recorder proceeded to paſs ſentence on him, which he prefaced with the following moſt pathetic ſpeech:

" James Sheppard, you are convicted accord-
" ing to law of the greateſt of offence againſt hu-
" man authority, high treaſon, in compaſſing
" and imagining the death of the king. Your in-
" tent was to kill, to murder, and baſely aſſaſſi-
" nate his majeſty king George, in order to place
" a Popiſh pretender on his throne.

" It is very ſurpriſing that one ſo young in
" years ſhould attempt ſo wicked an enterprize:
" and it is more amazing that you ſhould ſtill
" thus defend and juſtify it, and not only think
" that there is no harm in it, but that the action
" if committed would have been meritorious.

" It was reaſonable to think that you had re-
" ceived thoſe impreſſions which incited you to
" this undertaking, from ſome of thoſe falſe and
" malicious libels which have been induſtriouſly
" diſperſed to delude unwary readers, and to
" alienate the minds of his majeſty's ſubjects;
" and it appears to be ſo from your own confeſ-
" ſion, that you had imbibed your principles
" from ſermons and pamphlets, which make you
" think king George an uſurper, and the pre-
" tender your lawful king.

" Conſider, unhappy young man, whether
" you may not be in an error; and what I now
" ſuggeſt to you is not to reproach you, or to ag-
" gravate your crime, but proceeds from com-
" paſſion, and with a regard to your further con-
" ſideration before you go out of the world; that
" you may be convinced of your error, and re-
" tract it.

" The notions you entertain are contrary to
" the ſenſe of the nation; who found by expe-
" rience that their religion, their laws and liber-
" ties were in imminent danger from a Popiſh
" prince, and therefore they reſcued themſelves
" from that danger, and excluded Papiſts for the
" future from the crown: and ſettled it on his
" majeſty and his heirs, being Proteſtants; which
" has been confirmed by many parliaments, and
" the nation feels the good effects of ſo happy an
" eſtabliſhment.

" It ſeems ſtrange, that you ſhould hint at a
" paſſage in St. Paul for your juſtification. If
" he exhorted the Chriſtians to ſubmit to the
" Roman emperors, even though they ſhould be
" tyrants, how comes it that you, a private youth,
" ſhould not only judge of the title of kings in
" oppo-

" oppoſition to the ſenſe of ſo many parliaments;
" but that you ſhould think yourſelf authorized
" to murther a prince in peaceable poſſeſſion of
" the throne, and by whom his ſubjects are pro-
" tected in the enjoyment of all their rights and
" privileges, and of every thing that is dear and
" valuable to mankind.

" You mention in your papers as if you muſt
" expect the moſt cruel tortures. No, unfortu-
" nate youth, the king you will not own, uſes
" no cruel tortures to his ſubjects. He is king
" according to the laws of the land, and by them
" he governs. And as you have tranſgreſſed
" thoſe laws in the higheſt degree, the public
" juſtice requires that you ſhould ſubmit to the
" ſentence ordained for ſuch an offender; which is,

" That you be led from hence to the place
" from whence you came; from thence you are
" to be drawn upon a hurdle to the place of exe-
" cution, and there you are to be hanged by the
" neck, and being alive to be cut down, your
" bowels to be taken out of your belly, and there
" burnt, you being alive: your head is to be cut
" off, and your body to be divided into four
" quarters, and your head and quarters to be
" diſpoſed of as his majeſty ſhall think fit. And
" God Almighty have mercy on your ſoul."

After ſentence was paſſed Sheppard confeſſed that the reading ſome ſermons and other pamphlets had induced him to think that it would be a meritorious act to kill the king; and that he was convinced he was the agent deſtined by Providence to accompliſh the deed. The Ordinary of Newgate told him that he ſhould have prayed that ſuch wicked ſentiments might be removed from

from his mind. His reply was, that "he had "prayed; and that in proportion as he prayed, "he was ſo much the more encouraged and con- "firmed in the lawfulneſs of his deſign."

The unhappy youth was now viſited by a non-juring clergyman, between whom and the Ordinary there were repeated quarrels, which continued almoſt to the laſt moments of Sheppard's life; for they wrangled even at the place of execution; nor did the debate ceaſe till the Ordinary quitted the cart, and left the other to inſtruct and pray with the malefactor as he thought proper.

Sheppard was executed at Tyburn on the 17th of March, 1718, a few hours after the fatal exit of the marquis of Paleotti.

To what reflections we have made at the cloſe of our narratives reſpecting the perſons executed on account of the rebellion, little need be ſaid in this place, ſince the conduct of all the parties ſeems to have been animated by the ſame motive: the wiſh, the abſurd wiſh, to place a Roman catholic prince to reign over a Proteſtant people.

On Sheppard's being firſt taken into cuſtody, many people were of opinion that he was a lunatic; but the calm coolneſs of his ſubſequent conduct is a full proof to the contrary: he ſeems to have acted upon principle, from the force of conviction. Hence, then, we ought to deteſt the doctrines of thoſe who could teach that it was lawful to commit murder; murder of the moſt aggravated kind; the deſtruction of a king who ſucceeded to the throne by legal right, and ruled on the principles of juſtice and equity.

It is needleſs to inform thoſe who are at all read in hiſtory that theſe kingdoms were never governed with ſo mild a ſway as ſince the acceſſion of the illuſtrious houſe of Hanover to the throne

throne of theſe realms: and Providence ſeems to have promiſed, by the ſingular encreaſe of his majeſty's family, a perpetuation of the crown in the Brunſwick line for a ſucceſſion of ages. That it may be for a long ſucceſſion will be the ardent prayer of all thoſe who wiſh well to the civil and religious rights of mankind!

Circumſtances reſpecting the Trial and Execution of JOHN PRICE, otherwiſe JACK KETCH, who was hanged for Murder; with ſome particulars of his life.

JOHN PRICE was indicted at the Old Bailey on the 24th of April, 1718, for the murder of Elizabeth, the wife of William White, on the 13th of the preceding month.

In the courſe of the evidence it appeared that Price met the deceaſed near ten at night in Moorfields, and attempted to raviſh her; but the poor woman (who was the wife of a watchman, and ſold gingerbread in the ſtreets,) doing all in her power to reſiſt his villainous attacks, he beat her ſo cruelly that ſtreams of blood iſſued from her eyes and mouth, broke one of her arms, beat out ſome of her teeth, bruiſed her head in a moſt dreadful manner, forced one of her eyes from the ſocket, and otherwiſe ſo ill-treated her that the language of decency cannot deſcribe it.

Some perſons, hearing the cries of the unhappy creature, repaired to the ſpot, took Price into cuſtody, and lodged him in the watch-houſe; and conveyed the woman to a houſe where a ſurgeon and nurſe were ſent for to attend her. Being unable to ſpeak, ſhe anſwered the nurſe's queſtions by

by ſigns, and in that manner deſcribed what had happened to her. She died after having languiſhed four days.

The priſoner, on his trial, denied being guilty of the fact; and ſaid that as he was croſſing Moorfields he found ſomething lying in his way; that he kicked at it, but diſcovering that it was a woman, he lifted her up, but ſhe could not ſtand on her legs: and he ſaid that he was taken into cuſtody while he was thus employed. This defence, however, could not be credited, from what ſome former evidences had ſworn; and the jury did not heſitate to find him guilty.

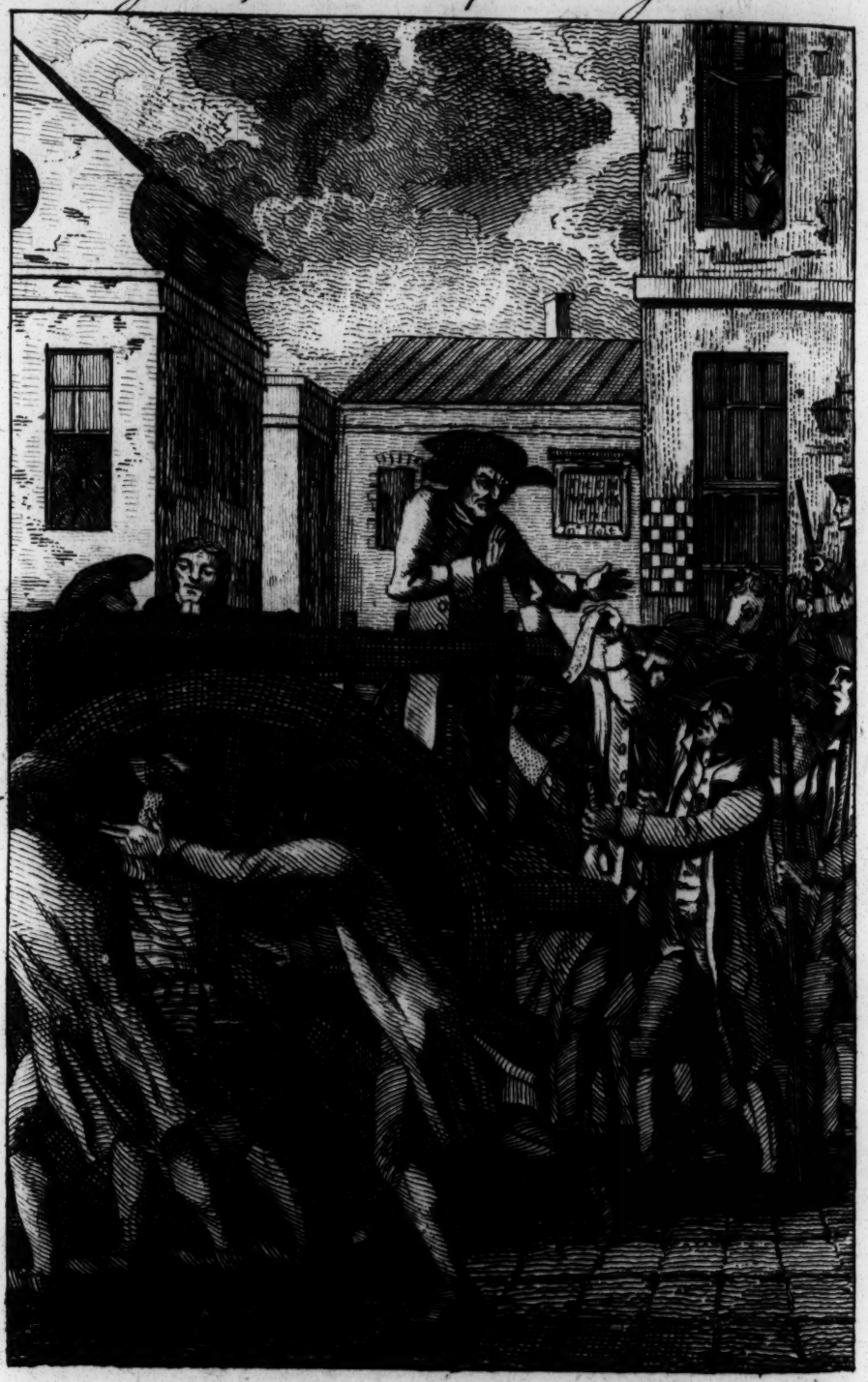
After ſentence of death was paſſed on him he abandoned himſelf to the drinking of ſpirituous liquors * to ſuch a degree as rendered him totally incapable of all the exerciſes of devotion. He obſtinately denied the fact till the day of his execution, when he confeſſed that he had been guilty of it; but ſaid that the crime was perpetrated when he was in a ſtate of intoxication. He was executed in Bunhill-Fields on the 31ſt of May, 1718, and, in his laſt moments, begged the prayers of the multitude, and hoped they would take warning by his untimely end. He was afterwards hung in chains near Holloway.

This offender was born in the pariſh of St. Martin in the Fields, and while he was very young his father was blown up at the demoliſhing of Tangier. His mother being left in circumſtances of diſtreſs, was not able to give him a proper education; but ſhe put him apprentice to a dealer in rags. Having ſerved about two years, his maſter died,

* Since the fate of this man we have had a law to prevent the carrying ſpirituous liquors into priſons.



Engraved for The Malefactor's Register.



JACK KETCH ARRESTED
and taken into Custody, when attending a Malefactor to the place of Execution.

died, and he ſoon afterwards ran away from his miſtreſs, and got employment in loading waggons with rags for other dealers. After this he went to ſea, and ſerved on board ſeveral ſhips in the royal navy for the ſpace of about eighteen years; but at length he was paid off, and diſcharged from the ſervice.

The place of public executioner becoming vacant by death, he accepted of it, and might have continued in it but for his own extravagance; for ſpending more money than his income, he ran in debt; and one day, as he was returning from an execution at Tyburn, he was arreſted in Holborn for a trifling ſum. However, he diſcharged this debt, and the coſts, partly with a ſmall ſum of money he had in his pocket, and partly by the produce of three ſuits of cloaths, which he had taken from the bodies of poor wretches who had been that day executed.

Soon after this two other writs were taken out againſt him, when having no money, nor being able to procure bail, he was obliged to go to the Marſhalſea Priſon, where he continued till after the following ſeſſions at the Old Bailey, when William Marvel was appointed executioner in his ſtead. Having continued ſome time longer in the Marſhalſea, he and a fellow-priſoner broke a hole in the wall, through which they made their eſcape: and ſoon after this Price committed the horrid murder for which his life paid the forfeit.

One would imagine that the dreadful ſcenes of calamity to which this man had been witneſs, if they had not taught him humanity, would at leaſt have given him wiſdom enough not to have perpetrated a crime that muſt neceſſarily bring

him to a ſimilarly fatal end to what he had ſo often ſeen of others: but perhaps his profeſſion tended rather to harden his mind than otherwiſe.

The murder of which Price was guilty appears to have been one of the moſt barbarous and unprovoked we ever remember to have read of: and his pretence that he was drunk when he perpetrated it was no ſort of excuſe; ſince drunkenneſs itſelf is a crime, and one which frequently leads to the commiſſion of others.

The leſſon to be learnt from the fate of this man is to moderate our paſſions of every kind; and to live by the rules of temperance and ſobriety. We are told, from the beſt authority, that "hands that ſhed innocent blood are an abo-"mination to the Lord."

Narrative of the Caſe of Mr. Edward Bird, who was executed for Murder.

MR. BIRD was born at Windſor in Berkſhire, and deſcended of reſpectable parents, who having firſt ſent him to Weſtminſter-School, then removed him to Eaton-College. When he had finiſhed his ſtudies he was ſent to make the tour of France and Italy, and on his return to England, was honoured with the commiſſion of a lieutenant in a regiment of horſe.

Before he had been long in the army he began to aſſociate with abandoned company of both ſexes, which finally led to the commiſſion of the crime which coſt him his life.

On the 10th of January, 1719, he was indicted at the Old Bailey for the murder of Samuel Loxton. It appeared on his trial that he had

taken a woman of the town to a bagnio in Silver-ſtreet, where Loxton was waiter. Early in the morning he ordered a bath to be got ready; but Loxton being buſy, ſent another waiter, at whom Bird, in a fit of paſſion, made ſeveral paſſes with his ſword, which he avoided by holding the door in his hand; but the priſoner ran after him, threw him down ſtairs, and broke ſome of his ribs. On this the maſter and miſtreſs of the houſe and Loxton went into the room, and attempted to appeaſe him: but Bird, enraged that the bath had not been prepared the moment he ordered it, ſeized his ſword, which lay by the bed-ſide, and ſtabbing Loxton, he fell backwards, and died immediately; on which the offender was taken into cuſtody, and committed to Newgate.

He was to have been tried in October, but pleading that he was not ready with his defence, the trial was put off to December; and then till January, on his phyſicians making affidavit that he was too ill to be removed from his chamber.

Being convicted on the cleareſt evidence, he received ſentence of death; but great intereſt being made in his behalf, he was reprieved, and it was thought he would have been pardoned, on condition of tranſportation, but for the intervention of the following circumſtance.

The friends of Loxton hearing that a reprieve was granted, adviſed his widow to lodge an appeal at the bar of the court of King's-Bench; and ſhe went thither with ſome friends, to give ſecurity for that purpoſe: but the relations of Bird hearing what was intended, were ready in court, with witneſſes to depoſe that this was the ſecond wife of Loxton, his firſt being ſtill living. This be-

ing the fact, the court refuſed to admit the appeal, as the ſecond could not be a lawful wife.

This affair occaſioned ſo much clamour that Bird was ordered for execution on Monday the 23d of February; on the night preceding which he took a doſe of poiſon; but that not operating as he had expected, he ſtabbed himſelf in ſeveral places. Yet however, he lived till the morning, when he was taken to Tyburn in a mourning coach, attended by his mother, and the Ordinary of Newgate.

As he had paid little attention to the inſtructions of the Ordinary while under confinement, ſo he ſeemed equally indifferent to his advice in the laſt moments of his life. Being indulged to ſtay an hour in the coach with his mother, he was put into the cart, where he aſked for a glaſs of wine; but being told that it could not be had, he begged a pinch of ſnuff, which he took with apparent unconcern, wiſhing health to thoſe who ſtood near him. He then rehearſed the apoſtle's creed, and being tied up, was launched into eternity, on the above-mentioned 23d of February, 1719.

He was executed in the 27th year of his age. He declined making any ſpeech, but delivered the following paper to his friends the day before his execution.

"IT will be expected that I ſhould ſay ſomething at this time, as to the fact I am going to ſuffer for.

I do not pretend to ſay, I did not kill the deceaſed; but humbly conceive, that both the laws of God and man will juſtify ſelf-defence; which I call God to witneſs, into whoſe arms of mercy I am now going to throw myſelf, was my caſe.

Unhap-

Unhappy is that gentleman who falls into ſuch hands; for there was not one evidence for the king that was not manifeſtly perjured, as I have faithfully ſet forth in my printed caſe, with all the juſtice a perſon expecting nothing leſs than death was capable of. And it is alſo as evident, that the proper evidences on my ſide were never called: I wiſh I could perſuade myſelf that miſmanagement did not proceed from the infidelity of my attorney, employed in my trial: for it appears but too evident, that he never made one regular ſtep towards my intereſt; and, I wiſh I could aver that he did not arm my enemies againſt me.

After all this, his majeſty, in his great wiſdom, thought fit to grant me a reprieve, and ordered me for tranſportation; but the reſtleſs malice of my enemies would not fix here.

The pretended widow of the deceaſed lodges an appeal againſt me. How ſhe had a right ſo to do, I leave thoſe gentlemen learned in the law to determine: yet this, with her fallacious petition, found entrance to the Royal Fountain, and turned that former ſtream of mercy from me; cauſing his majeſty to recede from his firſt decree of mercy, and order my execution; under which ſentence I ſtill, with all humility, ſubmit.

Another reflection, I am credily informed, is caſt upon me, in order to make my load the greater; which is, that I was frequently viſited, during my confinement, and even ſince my conviction, by lewd and infamous women. I cannot ſay that I have not been viſited by divers women; but do not know them to be ſuch: ſome of them were relations, and other perſons, who had buſineſs with me relating to my unhappy circumſtances. What will not malice invent!

There

There is one thing more which I omitted in my printed caſe, relating to my adverſary's evidence; depoſing, that the deceaſed Loxton fell without the door: which I declare ſolemnly, is utterly falſe; for what was done was in the room; I was not off from my bed when the accident happened; and when he dropped, he fell backwards upon the bed.

I might take notice of many more falſe aſperſions, but will omit them; having, I thank my God, forgiven them all.

In the next place, it will be expected that I ſay ſomething of my religion.

I declare, that I die a Proteſtant, and of the communion of the church of England, whoſe doctrine teaches me to forgive my enemies, which ſincerely I do: humbly begging, at the ſame time, that all thoſe, who through inadvertency, heat of blood, or any juvenile folly, I have offended, will do the ſame by me.

As for the manifold reflections caſt upon me ſince my confinement; the pretended widow's violent proſecution; the Farrier's notoriouſly falſe affidavit, and all other offences committed againſt me, I heartily forgive them.

And to conclude, I wiſh all gentlemen would only weigh the fatal cauſe of my unhappy exit, and avoid all ſuch houſes where the ſcene of this misfortune was firſt laid: let me be an example to them, to avoid thoſe rocks I have ſplit upon; that they may, with leſs difficulty than I have found it, be able to compoſe their thoughts, (which I thank God I have done) through the aſſiſtance of his divine ſpirit, and ſink into a willing reſignation to his divine will.

EDWARD BIRD.

This

This unfortunate youth ſeems to have fallen a ſacrifice to the irregularity and violence of his own paſſions: to the pride of his heart, and his love of lawleſs pleaſure. Hence let the youth who read this be taught to walk in the plain paths of ſobriety and diſcretion, "neither turning aſide to "the right hand nor the left." His taking poiſon and ſtabbing himſelf, to defeat the execution of the law, is a ſtrong proof of that pride of heart we have mentioned. He could be guilty of a crime deſerving the utmoſt ignominy, but dreaded to ſuſtain it. Humility, then, is another doctrine to be learnt from the fate of this man.

The ſituation of Bird's mother, in her attending him to Tyburn, muſt have been dreadful beyond all expreſſion! Mr. Bird had been well educated, and ought to have made a different return to the care of his parents. Women in general, however, ſhould conſider that it is by a religious education that the mind of the child is moſt likely to be guarded from the contamination of vice. The ſacred maxim will hold good in moſt inſtances: "train up a child in the way he ſhould "go; and when he is old he will not depart "therefrom."

Singular Caſe of CATHERINE JONES, who was tried for Bigamy, and acquitted.

CATHERINE JONES was indicted at the Old Bailey, on the 5th of September, 1719, for marrying Conſtantine Boone, during the life of her former huſband, John Rowland.

Proof

Proof was made that ſhe was married to Rowland, in the year 1713, at a houſe in the Mint, Southwark, and that ſix years afterwards, while her huſband was abroad, ſhe was again married, in the ſame houſe, to Conſtantine Boone; but Rowland, ſoon returning to England, cauſed his wife to be indicted for this crime.

The priſoner did not heſitate to acknowledge the double marriage, but inſiſted that the latter was illegal, as Boone was an hermaphrodite, and had been ſhewn as ſuch at Southwark and Bartholomew fairs, and at other places.

To prove this a perſon ſwore that he knew Boone when a child, that his (or *her*) mother dreſſed *it* in girls apparel, and cauſed it to be inſtructed in needle-work, till it had attained the age of twelve years, when it *turned man, and went to ſea.*

Theſe laſt words were thoſe of the depoſition; and the fact was confirmed by Boone, who appeared in court, acknowledged being an hermaphrodite, and having been publickly ſhewn in that character.

Other witneſſes depoſed that the female ſex prevailed over that of the male in the party in queſtion; on which the jury acquitted the priſoner.

It is impoſſible to deſcribe how much this affair was the ſubject of the public converſation at, and long after, the time that it happened: and it would be idle to make any ſerious remarks on it. We can only expreſs our aſtoniſhment that an hermaphrodite ſhould think of ſuch a glaring abſurdity as the taking a wife!

Narrative of the Trial and Execution of JOHN MATTHEWS, a Printer, who was hanged for High-Treaſon.

JOHN MATTHEWS was the ſon of a printer in Alderſgate-ſtreet, to whom he was apprenticed; but his father dying, he continued to ſerve with his mother. Having made connections with ſome perſons of Jacobitical principles, he printed ſome papers againſt the government, for which he was once taken into cuſtody; but the evidence being incompleat, he was diſmiſſed.

Encouraged by this eſcape, he was induced to print a pamphlet, entitled "Ex ore tuo te Ju-"dico: Vox populi, vox Dei."* For this offence he was brought to his trial, on the 30th of October, 1719, when it appeared that he had compoſed the pages of the pamphlet in queſtion, but locked them up, leſt they ſhould be found, and made uſe of to his prejudice.

An elder brother of Matthews, apprehending that the youth might endanger himſelf by his propenſity to the printing ſuch pamphlets, directed a journeyman, named Lawrence Vezey, to lock up the door of the printing-houſe every night, and bring him the key: but Vezey, like a villain as he was, firſt ſuffered the young fellow to print the ſuppoſed treaſonable matter, and then gave evidence againſt him.

A general warrant being granted by the ſecretary of ſtate, for the ſearch of Mrs. Matthews's

* That is, "Out of thy own mouth will I judge thee:—"the Voice of the People is the Voice of God."

houſe, the bloodhounds of government found a number of the ſuppoſed libel in a room which the priſoner acknowledged to belong to him; on which he was carried before the ſecretary of ſtate, who committed him to Newgate, on his refuſing to give up the author.

When Matthews was arraigned at the bar, Vezey ſwore that the priſoner brought the form, containing part of the book, to the preſs, and bid him pull a proof of it; which he did, and that the priſoner afterwards came down to him, and ſaid that the pages had been tranſpoſed, but he had now put them right; and he then pulled him another proof; he ſaid that then the priſoner deſired this evidence to come early in the morning to work off the ſheets, ſaying that he himſelf would take care of the paper, and that every thing ſhould be ready.

Accordingly Vezey went early one morning, intending to call up William Harper, the apprentice; but the priſoner came to the door, let him in, and called Harper, who aſſiſted Vezey in working off the ſheets, Matthews ſtanding by, and taking them from the preſs, for the greater expedition: and when the work was done the priſoner paid Vezey for his trouble. This evidence was likewiſe confirmed by Harper, as far as he was concerned in the tranſaction, and he added that he ſaw the priſoner compoſing the matter * from the manuſcript copy.

The council for the crown exerted their utmoſt abilities to aggravate the crime of the priſoner, and

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* "Compoſing the matter" is a term with printers, which ſignifies picking up the letters, and arranging them in proper order for their being worked off by the printing-preſs.

and the king's meſſengers ſwearing to as much as they knew of the affair, Matthews was found guilty, and ſentence of death was paſſed on him.

After condemnation he was attended by the Reverend Mr. Skerrett, who alſo accompanied him to the place of execution. His whole behaviour after ſentence was ſuch as might be expected from one who had too much ſenſe to expect favour from the people then in power: for it was not cuſtomary with the miniſters of George the firſt to extend mercy to perſons convicted of treaſonable offences: but perhaps their ſeeming want of humanity will appear the more excuſable, if we reflect on the fatal conſequences that might have enſued from the rebellion in 1715.

But nothing can excuſe the method they took to obtain evidence in this caſe. It is but of late years that the iſſuing of general warrants has been legally condemned; and Engliſhmen are not a little obliged to a man who (whatever his faults may be) has procured the condemnation of theſe warrants. Happily, we can now ſit quietly, and write our ſentiments in our own houſes, without being liable to have our papers ſeized by the arbitrary mandates of a ſecretary of ſtate. While we recollect that we are obliged for this favour in a great degree to the perſeverance of Mr. Wilkes, we ſhould not forget that the judicial determination of Lord Camden perfected the plan ſo happily begun, and ſo ſteadily purſued.

The above-mentioned John Matthews was executed at Tyburn on the 16th of November, 1719, before he had compleated the 19th year of his age; and was pitied by every one who had not loſt the common feelings of humanity.

From the fate of Matthews young gentlemen in the ſame line of buſineſs ſhould be taught to be cautious how they engage in the printing of political pamphlets; for though, to the credit of the good ſenſe and humanity of the preſent age, there is now much leſs danger than there formerly was, yet recent experience has taught us that great trouble and expence may enſue, where all riſk of life is out of the queſtion.

We ſhould all pray that we may live to ſee the time when the liberty of the preſs will be eſtabliſhed in its fulleſt extent; and when no villain will dare to be guilty of an atrocious action, but ſome honeſt man ſhall dare to tell him of it in public. By this, however, we do not mean to encourage the *licentiouſneſs* of the preſs—Deteſted be the heart that ſhould dictate, and the hand that ſhould write a line to deſtroy domeſtic happineſs, or corrode the mind of one worthy individual: but the public villain ſhould be ever held up, an object of the public ſcorn and cenſure!

Particulars reſpecting the Life and Trial of THOMAS BUTLER, Eſq. who was executed for a Robbery on the Highway.

MR. BUTLER was a native of Ireland, his father being an officer in the army of king James the ſecond; but king William having defeated that prince at the battle of the Boyne, young Butler and his father went with James to France: but when the rebellion broke out in Scotland the young gentleman was employed as a

ſpy

ſpy in the family of the duke of Ormond, for which he was allowed 20l. a year; but he hereby loſt the favour of his friends and relations, who eſpouſed a different intereſt. From Paris he went to Holland, where he ſoon ſpent moſt of the money in his poſſeſſion, and then embarked for England.

On his arrival in this country he commenced highwayman, and went out frequently in company with a man whom he called Jack, and who occaſionally acted as his ſervant; and they jointly committed a great number of robberies near London, particularly in Kent and Eſſex.

When they were in London, and ſometimes in a country town, they had the genteeleſt lodgings, and then Jack wore a livery, while the 'Squire was dreſſed in a moſt elegant manner, and had all the appearance of a man of fortune.

By this ſtile of living they continued their depredations on the highway for ſome years; but Butler being at length apprehended, was brought to his trial at the Old-Bailey, in January, 1720, when he was indicted for robbing Sir Juſtinian Iſham and another gentleman on the highway, of a gold watch, a ſilk night-gown, ſix Holland ſhirts, and other valuable articles; and was convicted on the cleareſt evidence.

The circumſtance that led to his detection, was, that offering ſome of the effects for ſale to a jeweller, he refuſed to purchaſe them unleſs he knew Butler's place of reſidence, which the latter readily told him; and when his lodgings were ſearched, Sir Juſtinian's gown was found, and was produced in court. Butler's companion, or ſervant, was in Ireland at the time of his detection, by which he eſcaped the fate he had deſerved.

While

While Mr. Butler lay under ſentence of death, he behaved in a very penitent manner. Being a Roman catholic, he received the ſacrament from a prieſt of his own perſuaſion. It had been reported that he had eight wives; but this he ſolemnly denied, declaring that he was legally married to only one woman.

This malefactor was executed at Tyburn on the 8th of February, 1720, at the age of 42 years.

There are few highwaymen who have lived in ſuch a ſtile of elegance as Butler; and by this mode of proceeding he eluded juſtice for a conſiderable time, as he uſed to dreſs in black velvet, laced ruffles, and all the other apparatus of a gentleman. Yet juſtice at laſt found him out, and detected him while in the full career of his wickedneſs.

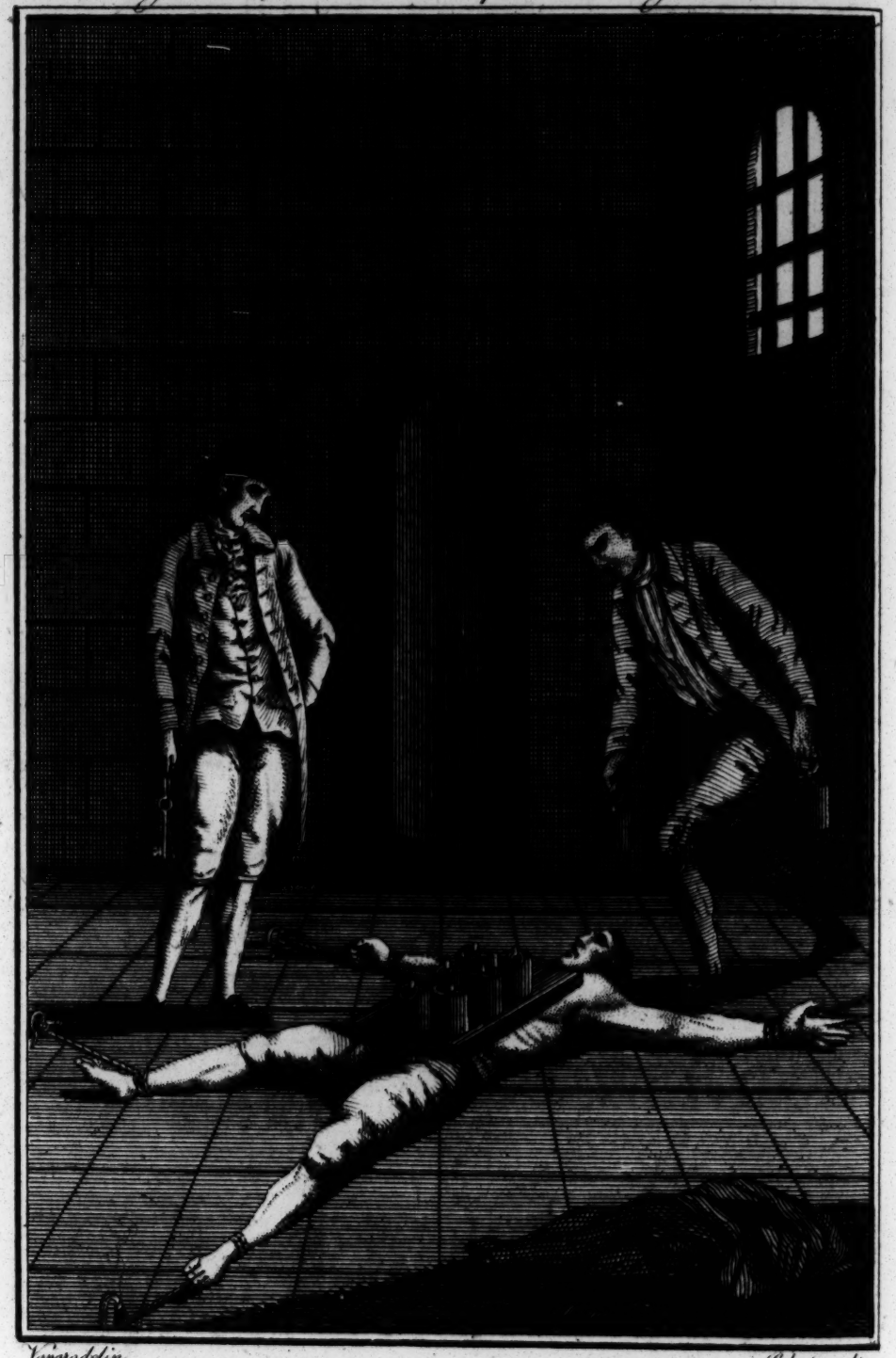
Hence let thoſe who are tempted to the commiſſion of acts of illegality, learn that the ſteps of juſtice, though they may be ſlow, are ſure; that it is almoſt impoſſible for guilt to eſcape detection, and that vengeance is the more terrible the longer it is dreaded, and the longer it is delayed.

Amidſt all thoſe gaieties of life that may be procured by fraudulent means, the heart muſt be perpetually corroded by grief, and agitated by fear. The life of honeſty is the only life of peace or ſafety. Let us never forget to "Do "juſtice, love mercy, and walk humbly with "God."

Par-

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Engraved for The Malefactor's Register.



Vangro delin. *Roberts sculp.*

The punishment formerly inflicted on those who REFUSED PLEADING *to an Indictment.*

Particulars reſpecting WILLIAM SPIGGOT, and THOMAS PHILLIPS, who were hanged for robbing on the Highway.

AT the ſeſſions held at the Old-Bailey in the month of January 1720, William Spiggot and Thomas Phillips were indicted for committing ſeveral robberies on the highway; but they refuſed to plead unleſs the effects taken from them when they were apprehended were returned: but this being directly contrary to an act of the 4th and 5th year of king William and queen Mary, entitled, "An act for encouraging the appre-"hending of highwaymen," the court informed them that their demand could not be complied with.

Still however, they refuſed to plead, and no arguments could convince them of the abſurdity of ſuch an obſtinate proceedure: on which the court ordered that the judgment ordained by law in ſuch caſes ſhould be read, which is to the following purpoſe:

"That the priſoner ſhall be ſent to the priſon "from whence he came, and put into a mean "room, ſtopped from the light, and ſhall there "be laid on the bare ground, without any litter, "ſtraw or other covering, and without any gar-"ment about him, except ſomething to hide his "privy members. He ſhall lie upon his back, "his head ſhall be covered, and his feet ſhall be "bare. One of his arms ſhall be drawn with a "cord to one ſide of the room, and the other arm "to the other ſide; and his legs ſhall be ſerved "in the like manner. Then there ſhall be laid "upon his body as much iron or ſtone as he can "bear,

" bear, and more. And the firſt day after he " ſhall have three morſels of barley bread, with- " out any drink; and the ſecond day, he ſhall be " allowed to drink as much as he can, at three " times, of the water that is next the priſon- " door, except running water, without any " bread; and this ſhall be his diet till he dies: " and he, againſt whom this judgment ſhall be " given, forfeits his goods to the King *."

The reading of this ſentence producing no effect, they were ordered back to Newgate, there to be preſſed to death: but when they came into the preſs-room, Phillips begged to be taken back to plead, a favour that was granted, though it might have been denied to him: but Spiggot was put under the preſs, where he continued half an hour with three hundred and fifty pounds weight on his body, but, on the addition of fifty pounds more, he likewiſe begged to plead.

In conſequence hereof they were brought back and again indicted, when the evidence being clear and poſitive againſt them, they were convicted, and received ſentence of death, in conſequence of which they were executed at Tyburn on the 8th of February, 1720.

WILLIAM SPIGGOT, who was about twenty-ſeven years of age when he ſuffered, was a native of Hereford, but coming to London, he apprenticed himſelf to a cabinet-maker. He was a married man, and had three children living at the time of his fatal exit. He and Phillips were hanged for robbing Charles Sybbald on Finchley Common, and were convicted principally on the evi-

* By an act paſſed in 1772 it is determined that perſons refuſing to plead ſhall be deemed guilty, as if convicted by a jury: an alteration that does honour to modern times.

evidence of Joſeph Lindſey, a clergyman of abandoned character, who had been of their party. One Burroughs, a lunatic, who had eſcaped from Bedlam, was likewiſe concerned with them, but afterwards publicly ſpoke of the affair, which occaſioned their being taken into cuſtody: and when it was known that Burroughs was diſordered in his mind, he was ſent back to Bedlam.

THOMAS PHILIPS, aged thirty-three years, was a native of Briſtol, totally uneducated, and being ſent to ſea when very young, he ſerved under Lord Torrington *, when he attacked and took the Spaniſh fleet in the Mediterranean Sea, near the harbour of Cadiz.

Phillips returning to England, became acquainted with Spiggot and Lindſey, in company with whom he committed a great number of robberies on the highway. Phillips once boaſted that he and Spiggot robbed above a hundred paſſengers one night, whom they obliged to come out of different waggons, and having bound them, placed them by each other on the ſide of the road: but this ſtory is too abſurd to be believed.

While under ſentence of death Phillips behaved in the moſt hardened and abandoned manner; he paid no regard to any thing that the miniſter ſaid to him, and ſwore or ſung ſongs while the other priſoners were engaged in acts of devotion; and towards the cloſe of his life, when his companions became more ſerious, he grew ſtill more wicked; and yet, when at the place of execution, he ſaid, "he did not fear to die, for he "was in no doubt of going to Heaven."

* The father of the late unfortunate Admiral Byng.

The leſſon of inſtruction to be drawn from the fate of theſe malefactors will be compromiſed in a few words. As the law now ſtands, no other criminal can ever undergo the puniſhment that Spiggot ſuſtained; and we hope no other will ever behave in ſo hardened a manner as Phillips did. It is horrid to think of a man's jeſting of ſacred matters at any time; but particularly ſo when he knows himſelf to be on the verge of eternity. The character of Lindſey ought to be held in univerſal contempt. The clergyman who could deſert the duties of his ſacred function to join with highwaymen, and then become an evidence to convict them, muſt be an object of deteſtation to every honeſt man!

Narrative of the Caſe of BARBARY SPENCER, who was hanged for High-Treaſon.

IN the month of May, 1721, Barbara Spencer, Alice Hall, and Elizabeth Bray, were indicted at the Old Bailey, for high-treaſon, in counterfeiting the current coin of the kingdom; when Hall and Bray were acquitted, as being only agents to the other, and Spencer being found guilty, was ſentenced to be burnt *.

The account that Barbara Spencer gave of herſelf was in ſubſtance as follows. That ſhe was born in the pariſh of St. Giles without Cripplegate, and being naturally of a violent temper, her mother was too indulgent to reſtrain her in a proper

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* Women convicted of high, or petit-treaſon, are always thus ſentenced; but they are firſt tied to a ſtake, and ſtrangled before they are burnt.

per manner. At length her mother finding her quite unmanageable at home, put her apprentice to a mantua-maker, who having known her from a child, treated her with great kindneſs.

Barbara had ſerved about two years, when on a diſpute with her miſtreſs ſhe went home to her mother, with whom ſhe had not long reſided before ſhe inſiſted on having a maid kept, to which the old woman conſented. A quarrel ſoon happening between Barbara and the maid, the mother interpoſed; on which the daughter left her for a time, but ſoon returned again.

Not long after this it happened that ſome malefactors were to be executed at Tyburn, and Barbara inſiſted on going to ſee the execution. This was prudently oppoſed by her mother, who ſtruggling to keep her at home, ſtruck her; but the daughter getting out of the houſe, went to a female acquaintance, who accompanied her to Tyburn, and from thence to a houſe near St. Giles's Pound, where Barbara made a vow that ſhe would never again return to her mother.

In this fatal reſolution ſhe was encouraged by the company preſent, who perſuaded her to believe that ſhe might live in an eaſy manner, if ſhe would but follow their way of life. To this ſhe readily agreed; and as they were coiners, they employed her in uttering counterfeit money, for which ſhe was detected, tried, fined and impriſoned.

Not taking warning by what had happened, ſhe returned to her old connections, commenced coiner herſelf, and was at length apprehended for the crime for which ſhe ſuffered.

While under ſentence of death ſhe behaved in the moſt indecent and turbulent manner; nor could ſhe be convinced that ſhe had been guilty

of any crime in making a few ſhillings. She was for ſome time very impatient under the idea of her approaching diſſolution, and was particularly ſhocked at the thought of being burnt; but at the place of execution ſhe ſeemed willing to exerciſe herſelf in devotion; but was much interrupted by the mob throwing ſtones and dirt at her.

She was ſtrangled and burnt at Tyburn on the 5th of July, 1721.

The unhappy fate of this woman ſeems to have been occaſioned by the violence of her temper, and a want of duty to her mother. Hence let all young people learn to keep their paſſions in ſubjection, and to remember the injunction in the fifth commandment; "Honour thy father and "thy mother, that thy days may be long in the "land which the Lord thy God giveth thee:" for ſurely no crime is more likely to lead to deſtruction than that of diſobedience to parents. It is the inlet to every other vice, and the ſource of a thouſand calamities.

Let children that would fear the Lord
Hear what their teachers ſay;
With rev'rence meet their parents word,
And with delight obey.

For thoſe who worſhip God, and give
Their parents honour due,
Here on this earth they long ſhall live,
And live hereafter too.

Caſe of MATTHEW CLARKE, who was hanged for Murder.

THIS offender was the ſon of poor perſons at St. Albans, and brought up as a plough-boy; but being too idle to follow his buſineſs, he ſauntered about the country, and committed frequent robberies, ſpending among women the money he obtained in this illegal manner.

Clarke had art enough to engage the affections of a number of young women, to ſome of whom he promiſed marriage; and he ſeems to have intended to have kept his word with one of them, and went with her to London to tie the nuptial knot; but going to a goldſmith's ſhop to buy the ring, he ſaid he had forgot to ſupply himſelf with money, but would go into the country and fetch it.

The young woman ſtaid in town while he went to Wilſden-Green, with a view to commit a robbery, that might repleniſh his pocket. As it was now the ſeaſon of hay-making, he met a man who, wondering that he ſhould be idle, gave him employment. Beſides the buſineſs of farming, his employer kept a public-houſe, and had a ſervant-maid whom Clarke had formerly courted.

The villain leaving his fellow-labourers in the field, went to the houſe, and finding the girl only at home, converſed with her ſome time, but having determined to rob his employer, he thought he could not do it ſecurely without murdering her; and while ſhe was gone to draw him ſome beer he pulled out his knife for this horrid purpoſe; and when ſhe entered the room he got up to kiſs her, thinking to have then perpetrated the deed, but his conſcience prevented him: on this

he

he ſat down, and talked with her ſome time longer, when he got up, and again kiſſing her, cut her throat in the ſame inſtant.

Hereupon ſhe fell down, and attempted to crawl to the door, while the blood ſtreamed from her throat; on which the villain cut her neck to the bone, and robbing the houſe of a ſmall ſum, ran off towards London, under all the agonizing tortures of a wounded conſcience.

Tyburn being in his way to town, he was ſo terrified at the ſight of the gallows that he went back a conſiderable diſtance, till meeting a waggon, he offered his ſervice in driving, thinking that his being in employment might prevent his being ſuſpected in caſe of a purſuit. But he had not gone far before ſome perſons rode up, and aſked him if he had ſeen a man who might be ſuſpected for a murderer. He ſeemed ſo terrified by the queſtion, that the parties could not help noticing his agitation; and, on a cloſe inſpection, they found ſome congealed blood on his cloaths, to account for which he ſaid he had quarrelled and fought with a ſoldier on the road.

Being taken into cuſtody, he ſoon acknowledged his crime, and being carried before a magiſtrate, he was committed to Newgate: and when brought to trial he pleaded guilty, in conſequence of which he was executed at Tyburn on the 28th of July, 1721, and then hung in chains near the ſpot where he committed the murder.

There is ſomething dreadfully enormous in the crime for which this man ſuffered. When under ſentence of death he was one of the moſt miſerable wretches that ever endured a ſituation ſo calamitous. Nor is this to be wondered at; for the murder he committed was one of the moſt unprovoked imaginable. It is probable, from the

affection the poor girl had for him, that ſhe would have lent him a greater ſum than he obtained by cutting her throat.

His terrors at the ſight of the gallows, ſhould teach thoſe who are prompted to iniquity, to avoid all crimes that may lead to a fatal end. The wicked can never be happy; and it is only by a life of integrity, virtue and piety, that we can hope for the bleſſing of God, the applauſe of a good conſcience, and "that peace of mind which "paſſeth all underſtanding."

Narrative of the ſingular Caſe of JOHN MEFF, who was hanged for returning from Tranſportation.

THIS offender had been taken into cuſtody for committing a robbery near London; but as it happened at a time within the limits of an Act of Grace paſſed in the reign of king George the firſt, it was not thought neceſſary to indict him, and he would have been diſcharged without farther ceremony, but it appeared that he had been tranſported for another crime, and returned before the expiration of his time; wherefore he was indicted for this offence, on an act then lately made, "For the more effectual tranſ-"portation of felons;" and his perſon being identified, he was found guilty, received ſentence of death, and was executed at Tyburn on the 11th of September, 1721.

The following is an account which he wrote between his condemnation, and the day of his execution.

"I was

" I was born in London of French parents,
" who fled hither for protection, when the French
" Proteſtants were driven out of France by Lewis
" XIV.

" I was put apprentice to a weaver: my fa-
" ther having continued about twelve years in
" England, went with the reſt of his family to
" Holland. I ſerved my time faithfully, and
" with the approbation of my maſter. Soon af-
" ter I came to work for myſelf I married; but
" my buſineſs not being ſufficient to maintain
" myſelf, my wife, and children, I was willing
" to try what I could do at thieving.

" I followed this practice till I was apprehend-
" ed, tried and condemned for houſe-breaking;
" but, as I was going to the place of execution,
" the hangman was arreſted, and I was brought
" back to Newgate. It was thought that this
" was my contrivance, to put a ſtop to public
" juſtice; but I was ſo far from being any ways
" concerned in it, that I knew nothing of it till
" it was done. This might have been a happy
" turn for me, if I had made a right uſe of it;
" for my ſentence of death was changed for that
" of tranſportation. And indeed I took up a ſo-
" lemn reſolution to lead an honeſt and regular
" courſe of life, and to reſiſt all the perſuaſions
" of my comrades to the contrary. But this re-
" ſolution continued but a ſhort time after the
" fear of death was vaniſhed.

" I believe however, that, if I had been ſafe
" landed in America, my ruin might have been
" prevented; but the ſhip, which carried me
" and the other convicts, was taken by the pi-
" rates. They would have perſuaded me and
" ſome others to ſign a paper, in order to become

" pirates;

" pirates; but we refuſing, they put me and eight
" more aſhore, on a deſart uninhabited iſland,
" where we muſt have periſhed with hunger, if
" by good fortune an Indian canoe had not ar-
" rived there. We waited till the Indians were
" gone up the iſland, and then, getting into the
" veſſel, we ſailed from one ſmall iſland to ano-
" ther, till we reached the coaſt of America.

" Not chuſing to ſettle in any of the planta-
" tions there, but preferring the life of a ſailor,
" I ſhipped myſelf on board a veſſel that carried
" merchandize from Virginia and South-Caro-
" lina to Barbadoes, Jamaica, and other of his
" majeſty's iſtands. And thus I lived a conſider-
" able time; but at laſt being over deſirous to
" ſee how my wife and children fared in Eng-
" land, I was reſolved to return at all adventures.

" Upon my arrival here, I quickly fell into
" my former wicked practices, and it was not
" long before I was committed to Newgate, on
" ſuſpicion of robbing a perſon near London;
" but, by the aſſiſtance of a cetain bricklayer, I
" broke out of priſon and went to Hatfield,
" where I lay concealed for ſome time; but at
" laſt was diſcovered, and taken again by the
" ſame bricklayer who had procured my eſcape.
" Some evil genius attended me, I was certainly
" infatuated, or I had never continued in a place
" where I was ſo likely to be diſcovered.

" My father is now a gardener at Amſterdam.
" 'Tis an addition to my misfortune, that I can-
" not ſee him and my mother before I die; but
" I hope when he hears of my unhappy end, he
" will keep my children by my firſt wife from
" ſtarving. My preſent wife is able by her in-
" duſtry to bring up her own offspring; for ſhe

" has been an honeſt careful woman, during the " nine months I have been married to her, and " has often preſſed me to go over to Ireland, and " lead a regular and ſober life. It had been well " for me if I had taken her advice.

" I have had enough of this reſtleſs and tumul- " tuous world, and hope I am now going to a " better. I am very eaſy and reſigned to the " will of Providence, not doubting but I have " made my peace with Heaven. I thank God " that I have not been moleſted by my fellow- " priſoners, with the leaſt curſing or ſwearing in " the condemned-hold; but have had an oppor- " tunity of employing every moment of my time " in preparing for a future ſtate."

The caſe of this malefactor is very extraordinary, and perhaps may never be equalled by that of any other. The narrow eſcape he had experienced from the gallows ought to have taught him more wiſdom than to have returned from tranſportation before the expiration of his time; but one would think there is a fatality attending the conduct of ſome men, who ſeem reſolutely bent on their own deſtruction.

One truth, however, is certain. It is eaſy, by a ſteady adherence to the rules of virtue, to ſhun that ignominious fate which is the conſequence of a breach of the laws of God and our country!

Caſe of ARTHUR GRAY, who was convicted of a Burglary.

IN December, 1721, the priſoner was indicted for breaking and entering the dwelling-houſe of George Baillie, Eſq. in the pariſh of St. James, Weſt-

Weſtminſter, with intent to raviſh Grizel, the wife of Alexander Murray.

Mrs. Murray was the ſiſter of Mrs. Baillie, and lived in the houſe of her brother-in-law, in the abſence of her huſband, who was a military officer.

It was ſworn on the trial that about four in the morning of the 14th of October, the priſoner entered Mrs. Murray's room, with a drawn ſword in one hand, and a piſtol in the other, and threatened to kill her if ſhe made any noiſe; that ſhe aſked him the meaning of ſuch a procedure, to which he replied, "Madam, I mean to raviſh "you, for I have entertained a violent paſſion "for you a long time; but as there is ſo great a "difference between your fortune and mine, I "deſpair of enjoying my wiſhes by any means "but force."

On this the lady remonſtrated with him; but perſiſting in his intention, he laid the ſword on the bolſter, and attempted to pull off the bedcloaths; but Mrs. Murray puſhed him againſt the wall, wrenched the piſtol out of his hand, and rang the bell; on which the priſoner quitted the room; but ſhe followed him to the door, and called out murder, by which the family were alarmed.

The ſervants now ran to the aſſiſtance of the lady, but Gray had got to his own room, and thrown himſelf on the bed with his cloaths on; and having been out in company the preceding evening, it does not appear that he was undreſſed during the night.

Being apprehended, and taken before a magiſtrate, he confeſſed that he entered the room with an intent to raviſh the lady; but this he afterwards ſteadily denied; and various were the opi-

nions of the public reſpecting his guilt or innocence.

The priſoner, in his defence, ſaid that thinking he heard a noiſe in Mrs. Murray's room, he went down ſtairs and fetched a ſword and piſtol, and as the door ſtood partly open, he went in, and laying down his arms to look behind the bed, Mrs. Murray rang the bell, and alarmed the family.

The jury having conſidered the evidence, brought him in guilty, and he received ſentence of death: but Mrs. Murray's relations interceding in his behalf, he was afterwards pardoned on condition of tranſportation.

This affair made a great noiſe at the time it happened, and many perſons did not ſcruple to inſinuate that Gray had been admitted to favours which might warrant his entering the lady's chamber at any hour.

The ſingle reflection ariſing from this ſtory is, that illicit pleaſure leads to diſgrace; there is no doubt but there was ſome foundation for this proſecution. If Gray had been previouſly too intimate with the lady, ſhe was puniſhed by the expoſure of a public trial; if otherwiſe, he was puniſhed for the attempt in the ignominy of a public conviction. Hence let it be learnt that chaſtity is a virtue which cannot be prized at too high a rate!

The ſingular Caſe of NATHANIEL HAWES, who was hanged for a Robbery.

THE ſubject of this narrative was a native of Norfolk, in which county he was born in the year 1701. Hawes's father was a grazier in ample

ample circumſtances, but dying while the ſon was an infant, a relation in Hertfordſhire took care of his education.

At a proper age he was apprenticed to an upholſterer in London; but becoming connected with people of bad character, and thus acquiring an early habit of vice, he robbed his maſter when he had ſerved only two years of his time; for which he was tried at the Old Bailey, and being convicted of ſtealing to the amount of thirty-nine ſhillings, he was ſentenced to ſeven years tranſportation.

But the ſentence thus awarded againſt Hawes was not carried into execution, owing to the following circumſtance. A man named Phillips had encouraged the unhappy youth in his depredations, by purchaſing, at a very low rate, ſuch goods as he ſtole from his maſter: but when Hawes was taken into cuſtody he gave information of this affair, in conſequence of which a ſearch-warrant was procured, and many effects belonging to Hawes's maſter were found in Phillips's poſſeſſion.

Hereupon application was made to the king, and a free pardon was granted to Hawes, whereby he was rendered a competent evidence againſt Phillips, who was tried for receiving the ſtolen goods, and was tranſported for fourteen years.

We are ſorry to relate the ſequel of this tale. Hawes, during his confinement in Newgate, had made ſuch bad connections as greatly contributed to the contamination of his morals; and ſoon after his releaſe he connected himſelf with a ſet of fellows who acted under the direction of Jonathan Wild; and having made a particular acquaintance with one John James, they joined in the commiſſion of a number of robberies.

After an uncommon ſhare of ſucceſs for ſome days, they quarrelled on the diviſion of the booty, in conſequence of which each acted on his own account. Some little time after they had thus ſeparated, Hawes, being apprehenſive that James would impeach him, applied to Jonathan Wild, and informed againſt his old acquaintance, on which James was taken into cuſtody, tried, convicted, and executed.

Notwithſtanding this conviction the court ſentenced Hawes * to be impriſoned in New-Priſon, and that goal was preferred to Newgate, becauſe the priſoners in the latter had threatened to murder Hawes, for being an evidence againſt James.

Soon after this commitment, Hawes and another fellow made their eſcape, and entering into partnerſhip, committed a variety of robberies, particularly in the road between Hackney and Shoreditch. This connection, like the former, laſted but a ſhort time: a diſpute on dividing their ill-gotten gains occaſioned a ſeparation.

Soon after this diſſolution of the partnerſhip, Hawes went alone to Finchley-Common, where meeting a gentleman riding to town, he preſented a piſtol to his breaſt, and commanded him inſtantly to diſmount, that he might ſearch him for his money.

The gentleman, offered him four ſhillings, on which Hawes ſwore the moſt horrid oaths, and threatened inſtant death, if he did not immediately ſubmit. The gentleman quitted his horſe, and

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* By an act of the 4th and 5th of William and Mary, for the more effectual conviction of highwaymen, the evidence of accomplices is allowed; but the evidence cannot claim his liberty unleſs two or more of his accomplices are convicted; but may be impriſoned during the pleaſure of the court.

and in the ſame moment ſeized the piſtol, which he ſnatched from the hand of the robber, and preſenting it to him, told him to expect death if he did not ſurrender himſelf.

Hawes, who was now as terrified as he had been inſolent, made no oppoſition; and the driver of a cart coming up juſt at that juncture, he was eaſily made priſoner, conveyed to London, and committed to Newgate.

When the ſeſſions came on, and he was brought to the bar, he refuſed to plead to his indictment, alledging the following reaſon for ſo doing; viz. that he would die, as he had lived, like a gentleman: "The people (ſaid he) who apprehended "me, ſeized a ſuit of fine cloaths, which I in- "tended to have gone to the gallows in; and un- "leſs they are returned I will not plead; for no "one ſhall ſay that I was hanged in a dirty ſhirt "and ragged coat."

On this he was told what would be the conſequence of his contempt of legal authority: but this making no impreſſion on him, ſentence was pronounced that he ſhould be preſſed to death, whereupon he was taken from the court, and being laid on his back, ſuſtained a load of two hundred and fifty pounds weight about ſeven minutes; but unable any longer to bear the pain, he entreated that he might be conducted back to the court, which being complied with, he pleaded "Not guilty;" but the evidence againſt him being compleat, he was convicted, and ſentenced to die.

After conviction his behaviour was very improper for one in his ſituation. He told the other capital convicts that he would die like a hero; and behaved in the ſame thoughtleſs way till the arrival of the warrant for his execution: after which his conduct was not altogether ſo ſcandalous.

lous. He owned to the Ordinary of Newgate, that he was induced to refuſe to plead to his indictment, that the other priſoners might deem him a man of honour, and not from the idle vanity of being hanged in fine cloaths.

He acknowledged many robberies which he had committed; but charged Jonathan Wild as being the principal author of his ruin, by purchaſing the ſtolen goods. He likewiſe owned that he had been baſe enough to inform againſt perſons who were innocent, particularly a gentleman's ſervant, who was then in cuſtody; but he did not diſcover many ſigns of contrition for this, or any other of his offences.

He was executed at Tyburn on the 22d of December, 1721.

The inferences to be drawn from the caſe of this malefactor are obvious. By his informing againſt James, leaſt James ſhould impeach him, we ſee how little confidence thieves can place in each other; and that partnerſhips in wickedneſs are ſure to end in deſtruction.

From the reſiſtance made by the gentleman whom Hawes attacked, and the conſequent apprehenſion of the offender, we may fairly conclude that there is a cowardice naturally attached to guilt, which will almoſt infallibly favour the cauſe of the honeſt man.

Narrative of the Life and Trial of WILLIAM BURRIDGE, who was hanged for Horſe-ſtealing.

THIS offender, was a native of Northamptonſhire, and ſerved his time with a carpenter; but giving full proofs of his knaviſh diſpoſition, and having ruined ſeveral young women, his friends determined to ſend him to ſea, as the

the moſt probable method to prevent his coming of a fatal end.

In conſequence hereof they got him rated as a midſhipman, and he ſailed to the coaſt of Spain; but ſoon quitting the naval ſervice, he returned to England, and, commencing highwayman, committed many robberies on the road to Hampſtead, on Finchley-Common, and in the neighbourhood of Hammerſmith.

When he firſt began the practice of robbing, he formed a reſolution to retire when he had acquired as much money as would ſupport him; but this time never arrived; for finding his ſucceſs by no means proportioned to his expectations, he became one of the gang under Jonathan Wild * of infamous memory; and was for a conſiderable time ſcreened from juſtice by that celebrated maſter of thieves.

Burridge being confined in New-Priſon for a capital offence, broke out of that goal; and he was repeatedly an evidence at the Old Bailey, by which means his aſſociates ſuffered the rigour of the law. At length, having offended Wild, the latter marked him down as one doomed to ſuffer at the next execution after the enſuing ſeſſions at the Old Bailey; which was a common practice with Wild, when he grew tired of his dependants, or thought they could be no longer ſerviceable to him.

Alarmed by this circumſtance, Burridge fled into Lincolnſhire, where he ſtole a horſe, and brought it to London, intending to ſell it at

* A particular account of this notorious malefactor will appear in the courſe of this work.

Smithfield for preſent ſupport: but the gentleman who had loſt the horſe having ſent a full deſcription of it to London, Burridge was ſeen riding on it through the ſtreet, and watched to a livery ſtable.

Some perſons going to take him, he produced a brace of piſtols, threatening deſtruction to any one who came near him; by which he got off; but being immediately purſued, he was taken in May-Fair, and lodged in Newgate.

On his trial a man and a woman ſwore that they ſaw him purchaſe the horſe; but as there was a material difference in their ſtories, the court was of opinion that they had been hired to ſwear, and the judge gave directions for their being taken into cuſtody for the perjury.

The jury did not heſitate to find Burridge guilty: and after ſentence was paſſed, his behaviour was extremely devout, and he encouraged the devotion of others in like unhappy circumſtances.

He was executed at Tyburn on the 22d of March, 1722, in the 34th year of his age; having firſt warned the ſpectators to be obedient to their parents and maſters, and to beware of the crime of debauching young women, which had firſt led him from the path of duty, and finally ended in his ruin.

The idea this unhappy man had conceived of leaving off robbing when he had obtained enough to ſupport him, was ridiculous in the higheſt degree. Perhaps there never was a ſingle inſtance of a thief retiring on the profits of his plunder. What is got in an illegal manner is always ſpent in debauchery and extravagance: but ſuppoſing retirement was poſſible; could that man expect one moment of peace who had acquired his ſubſiſtance

ſiſtance by acts of diſhoneſty? He could not eat a morſel of bread, or drink a draught of liquor, but he muſt reflect that it was not his own. His days would be wretched, and his nights ſleepleſs; he would be terrified by every new face he ſaw; the fear of detection would be ever uppermoſt in his mind, and he would be perpetually tormented with the racking pains of a guilty conſcience.

After this dreadful repreſentation of facts, nothing need be added to convince youth that to tread in the path of virtue is the ſureſt way to happineſs; and that he who deviates from this path is in the certain way to bring deſtruction on his own head!

Particulars reſpecting ARUNDEL COOKE, Eſq. and JOHN WOODBURNE, who were hanged for cutting and maiming Mr. CRISP.

THESE people ſuffered on what is called the Coventry Act, to underſtand which it will be neceſſary to recite a few particulars.

The Coventry Act took its riſe from the following circumſtance. Sir John Coventry, in the reign of Charles the ſecond, having oppoſed the meaſures of the court in the houſe of commons, in revenge hereof ſome armed villains attacked him one night in Covent-Garden, ſlit his noſe, and cut off his lips. Shocked by ſo barbarous a deed, the members of both houſes of parliament paſſed an act in a few days, by which it was ordained that "Unlawfully cutting out, or diſabling "the tongue, of malice aforethought, or by ly- "ing in wait, putting out an eye, ſlitting the "noſe or lip, or cutting off or diſabling any

" limb or member of any perſon, with intent to " maim or diſfigure, ſhall be felony without be- " nefit of clergy."—By this law it is likewiſe enacted that " Acceſſaries ſhall be deemed prin- " cipals." The parties whoſe crimes we are about to relate were the firſt who were executed on this act.

Mr. Cooke was born near Bury St. Edmonds in the county of Suffolk. His father was a man of fortune, and when he had given him an univerſity education, he ſent him to the Temple to ſtudy the law, after which he was called to the bar, and acted as a counſellor. After ſome time he married a young lady, the ſiſter of Mr. Criſp, who lived in the neighbourhood of his native place.

Mr. Criſp being a gentleman of large property, but of a bad ſtate of health, made his will in favour of Cooke, ſubject only to a jointure for his ſiſter's uſe, which was likewiſe to become the property of the counſellor, in caſe the lady died before her huſband.

It was not long after Mr. Criſp had made his will, before he recovered his health in ſome degree; but he continued an infirm man, though he lived a number of years. This partial recovery gave great uneaſineſs to Cooke, who wiſhing to poſſeſs the eſtate, was anxious for the death of his brother-in-law, though, as he had art enough to conceal his ſentiments, they appeared to live on tolerable terms.

However, he at length grew ſo impatient that he could not come into poſſeſſion by the death of Mr. Criſp, that he reſolved to remove him by murder; and for that purpoſe engaged John Woodburne, a labouring man, who had ſix chil-

dren, to aſſiſt him in the execution of his diabolical plan.

For this piece of ſervice he promiſed to give Woodburne a hundred pounds. The man was unwilling to be concerned in this execrable buſineſs; but reflections on his poverty, and the largeneſs of his family, tempted him to comply.

On this it was agreed that the murder ſhould be perpetrated on Chriſtmas evening, and as Mr. Criſp was to dine with Cooke on that day, and the church-yard lay between one houſe and the other, Woodburne was to wait, concealed behind one of the tomb-ſtones, till Cooke gave him the ſignal for the attack, which was to be a loud whiſtle.

Criſp came to his appointment, and dined and drank tea with his brother-in-law; but declining to ſtay to ſupper, he left the houſe about nine o'clock, and was almoſt immediately followed into the church-yard by Cooke, who giving the agreed ſignal to Woodburne, the latter quitted his place of retreat, knocked down the unhappy man, and cut and maimed him in a terrible manner; in which he was abetted by the counſellor.

Imagining that they had diſpatched him, Mr. Cooke rewarded Woodburne with a few ſhillings, and inſtantly went home; but he had not been arrived more than a quarter of an hour before Criſp knocked at the door, and entered covered with wounds, and almoſt dead through loſs of blood. He was unable to ſpeak, but by his looks ſeemed to accuſe Cooke with the intended murder, and was then put to bed, and his wounds dreſſed by a ſurgeon.

At the end of about a week he was ſo much mended as to be removed to his own houſe. He had no doubt but that Cooke was one of the perſons

ſons who had aſſaulted him: but had reſolved not to ſpeak of the affair till future circumſtances made it neceſſary for him to inform a court of juſtice of what had happened.

The intended aſſaſſination having greatly engaged the attention of the neighbours, Woodburne was apprehended on ſuſpicion; when making a diſcovery of the whole truth, Cooke was alſo taken into cuſtody. They were brought to their trials at the next aſſizes, when both of them were convicted.

When they were called up to receive ſentence of death, Cooke deſired to be heard; and the court complying with his requeſt, he urged that "Judgment could not paſs on the verdict, be-"cauſe the act of parliament ſimply mentions an "*intention* to maim or deface, whereas he was "firmly reſolved to have committed murder."

He quoted ſeveral law-caſes in favour of the arguments he had advanced, and hoped that judgment might be reſpited till the opinion of the twelve judges could be taken on the cauſe. The council for the crown oppoſed the arguments of Mr. Cooke, inſiſted that the crime came within the meaning of the law, and hoped that judgment would paſs againſt the priſoners.

Lord chief juſtice King, who preſided on this occaſion, declared that he could not admit the force of Mr. Cooke's plea, conſiſtent with his own oath as a judge; "for (ſaid he) it would "eſtabliſh a principle in the law, inconſiſtent "with the firſt dictates of natural reaſon; as the "greateſt villain might, when convicted of a "ſmaller offence, plead that the judgment muſt "be arreſted, becauſe he intended to commit a "greater. In the preſent inſtance (ſaid he) "judgment cannot be arreſted, as the intention

"is

" is naturally implied, when the crime is actually " committed."

His lordſhip ſaid, that " Criſp was aſſaſſinated " in the manner laid in the indictment; it is " therefore to be taken for granted that the in- " tention was to maim and deface; wherefore " the court will proceed to give judgment:" and accordingly ſentence of death was paſſed on the priſoners.

After condemnation Cooke employed his time principally in endeavours to procure a pardon; and when he found his expectations fail him, he grew reſerved, and would not admit even the viſits of his friends. On the contrary, Woodburne was all penitence and contrition, ſincerely lamenting the crime he had been guilty of, and the miſerable ſituation in which he left his poor children.

A ſhort time before the day of execution Cooke wrote to the ſheriff, requeſting that he might be hanged in the night, to prevent his being expoſed to the country-people, who were expected from all the adjacent towns and villages; and in conſequence hereof he was hanged at four o'clock in the morning, and Woodburne was executed in the afternoon of the ſame day. The latter behaved with every ſign of penitence; but Cooke's conduct was very unfeeling, and he abſolutely refuſed to confeſs his crime.

Theſe malefactors were executed at Bury St. Edmonds, on the 5th of April, 1722.

Serious reflections may well be made on the above melancholy tale. The baſeneſs of Cooke's heart muſt render him an object of deteſtation to every feeling mind. Of all the vices that can degrade humanity, covetouſneſs is one of the meaneſt. The very wiſh to poſſeſs what is not

our

our right, implies a degree of diſhoneſty; but the man whoſe covetous diſpoſition can inſtigate him to the thought of committing murder, is below the beaſts that periſh, and ought to be ranked with the infernal fiends.

What muſt have been Cooke's thoughts on the Chriſtmas-day, when he was entertaining his brother-in-law with an appearance of friendſhip and hoſpitality, yet had determined to murder him! Neither the ſanctity, nor the decent feſtivity of the ſeaſon, could compoſe or chear a mind bent on the perpetration of ſo horrid a deed. The caſe of this man will teach us the force of the commandment, "Thou ſhalt not covet thy neighbour's houſe, thou ſhalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his man-ſervant, nor his maid-ſervant, nor his ox, nor his aſs, nor any thing that is thy neighbour's."

With regard to Woodburne, though not an object of pity, he is leſs an object of deteſtation than Cooke. His large family, and diſtreſſed circumſtances were temptations. He might ſay, in the words of the poet,

My *Poverty*, but not my *Will* conſents.

Still, however, his crime was of an aggravated nature, for no temptation ſhould induce a man to embrue his hands in the blood of a fellow-creature. How dreadful to think of ruſhing into eternity with the crime of murder on the head! May the preventing grace of God preſerve us all from the perpetration of ſo ſhocking a deed! May we live in a continual ſenſe of our duty, and ſeek to make our own lives comfortable by acts of compaſſion and humanity to our fellow-creatures!

Short

Short Account of JOHN HARTLEY and THOMAS REEVES, who were hanged for a Robbery.

THESE offenders were tried for ſtopping a journeyman taylor in the fields near Hoxton, and robbing him of two-pence and his cloaths; and becauſe he had no more money, they beat him moſt inhumanly, ſtripped him, and bound him to a tree.

While he was in this wretched ſituation ſome perſons coming by unbound him, and took him to an alehouſe, where he told the particulars of the robbery, mentioned the colour of his cloaths, and deſcribed the perſons of the robbers to the beſt of his power.

Theſe circumſtances were heard by a fidler, who going next day into a public-houſe in Foreſtreet, ſaw the fellows offering to ſell the taylor's coat. The fidler immediately propoſed to be the purchaſer, gave earneſt for it, and pretending he had not money enough, ſaid he would fetch the difference; inſtead of which he brought the party robbed, who knowing the footpads, they were taken into cuſtody.

The evidence on their trial was ſo plain, that the jury could not heſitate to find them guilty, in conſequence of which they received ſentence of death.

After conviction their behaviour was unbecoming perſons in their unhappy circumſtances. That of Reeves was particularly hardened; he would ſing and ſwear while the other convicts were at prayers, yet he told the Ordinary that he was certain of going to heaven.

The moſt curious circumſtance ariſing from the detection of theſe offenders, was the ſingular method that Hartley took to ſave his life. He procured ſix young women, dreſſed in white, to go to St. James's and preſent a petition in his behalf. The ſingularity of their appearance gained them admiſſion, when they delivered their petition, and told the king that if he extended the royal mercy to the offender, they would caſt lots which ſhould be his wife: but his majeſty ſaid that he was more deſerving of the gallows than a wife, and accordingly refuſed their requeſt.

As they were going to execution, the Ordinary aſked Reeves if his wife had been concerned with him in any robberies; "No, (ſaid he) ſhe "is a worthy woman, whoſe firſt huſband hap- "pening to be hanged, I married her, that ſhe "might not reproach me by a repetition of his "virtues."

At the fatal tree Reeves behaved in the moſt hardened manner, affected to deſpiſe death, and ſaid he believed he might go to heaven from the gallows as ſafely as from his bed.

Theſe offenders ſuffered at Tyburn, on the 4th of May, 1722.

We ſee, in the inſtance of theſe malefactors, from what a caſual circumſtance their detection aroſe. A man hears a deſcription of them in a public-houſe; the next day he goes accidentally into another alehouſe, where he ſees them offering the ſtolen goods to ſale; and, by an honeſt deception, procures their being taken into cuſtody. The poor fidler had no intereſt in their detection but what aroſe from his abhorrence of vice; yet he was ſo regardful of what he had heard, that he became the immediate inſtrument of bringing them to juſtice.

Hence

Hence let us learn to admire the inſcrutable myſteries of the providence of God, which, as they ſurpaſs our finite comprehenſion, ſhould excite our wonder and our gratitude. Nothing can be hid from the all-ſeeing eye of heaven; and the man that commits a crime with the hope of concealing it, does but treaſure up a fund of uneaſineſs for his own mind: for even if the crime ſhould be concealed from the public, he will be perpetually harraſſed with the corroding ſtings of a guilty conſcience, and at all times carry with him a hell in his own boſom!

Narrative of the remarkable Actions of JOHN HAWKINS, and GEORGE SIMPSON, who were executed for robbing the Briſtol Mail, and hung in Chains.

AS the crime for which theſe malefactors ſuffered is very enormous in its own nature, and their tranſactions made a great noiſe in the world at the time they took place, we propoſe to give a particular account of them.

JOHN HAWKINS was the ſon of a poor farmer at Staines, who not being able to afford to educate him properly, he went into the ſervice of a gentleman, which he ſoon quitted, and lived as a waiter at the Red Lion at Brentford; but leaving this place, he again engaged as a gentleman's ſervant.

After living in different families, he became Butler to Sir Dennis Dutry, and was diſtinguiſhed as a ſervant of very creditable appearance. Indeed his perſon was uncommonly graceful, and he was remarkably vain of it. He uſed to fre-

quent gaming-tables two or three nights in a week, a practice which led to that ruin which finally befel him.

About this time Sir Dennis had been robbed of a conſiderable quantity of plate; and as Hawkins's mode of life was very expenſive, it was ſuſpected that he was the thief; for which reaſon he was diſcharged without the advantage of a good character.

Being thus deſtitute of the means of ſubſiſtence he had recourſe to the highway, and his firſt expedition was to Hounſlow-Heath, where he took eleven pounds from the paſſengers in a coach; but ſuch was his attachment to gaming, that he repaired directly to London, where he loſt it all.

He continued to rob alone for ſome time, loſing at the gaming-houſes what he obtained at ſo much riſk; and he then engaged to rob with other highwaymen; but the ſame fate ſtill attended him: he loſt by gaming what he got by thieving, and was frequently ſo reduced as to dine at an eating-houſe, and then ſneak off without paying his reckoning.

Several of Hawkins's old companions having met their deſerts at the gallows, he became acquainted with one Wilſon, a youth of good education, who had been articled to a ſolicitor in chancery; but had neglected his buſineſs through an attachment to the gaming-tables. Theſe aſſociates having committed ſeveral robberies in conjunction, were tried for one of them; but acquitted for want of evidence; though Wilſon, in an account publiſhed after Hawkins's condemnation, confeſſes they were guilty.

Immediately after this Wilſon went down to his mother, who lived at Whitby in Yorkſhire, and continued with her for about a year, and then

then coming to London, lived with a gentleman of the law: but having loſt his money in gaming, renewed his acquaintance with Hawkins, who was now concerned with a new gang of villains; but one of theſe being apprehended, impeached the reſt, which ſoon diſperſed the gang, but not till ſome of them had made their exit at Tyburn; on which Hawkins was obliged to conceal himſelf for a conſiderable time; but at length he ventured to rob a gentleman on Finchley-Common, and ſhot one of the ſervants ſo that he died on the ſpot.

His next attack was on the Earl of Burlington and Lord Bruce, in Richmond Lane, from whom they took about twenty pounds, two gold watches, and a ſapphire ring. For this ring a reward of 100l. was offered to Jonathan Wild; but Hawkins ſailed to Holland with it, and there ſold it for forty pounds.

Hawkins returning to England, joined his companions, of whom Wilſon was one, and robbed Sir David Dalrymple of about three pounds, a ſnuff-box, and a pocket-book, for which laſt Sir David offered 60l. reward to Wild; but the robbers having no connection with that execrable villain, who did not even know their perſons, they ſent the book by a porter to Sir David, without expence.

Hawkins and his aſſociates next ſtopped Mr. Hide of Hackney in his coach, and robbed him of 10l. and his watch, but miſſed 300l. which the gentleman then had in his poſſeſſion. After this they ſtopped the Earl of Weſtmoreland's coach in Lincoln's-Inn-Fields, and robbed him of a ſum of money, though there were three footmen behind the carriage. The footmen called the watch;

but the robbers firing a piſtol over their heads, the guardians of the night decamped.

Hawkins had now reſolved to carry the booty obtained in ſeveral late robberies to Holland; but Jonathan Wild having heard of the connection, cauſed ſome of the gang to be apprehended; on which the reſt went into the country to hide themſelves.

On this occaſion Hawkins and Wilſon went to Oxford, and paying a viſit to the Bodleian library, the former wantonly defaced ſome pictures in the gallery; and 100l. reward was offered to diſcover the offender: and a poor taylor being taken up on ſuſpicion, narrowly eſcaped being whipped, merely becauſe he was of whiggiſh principles.

Wilſon and Hawkins returning to London, and the former coming of age at that time, ſucceeded to a little eſtate his father had left him, which he ſold for 350l. a ſmall part of which he lent to his companions, to buy horſes, and ſoon diſſipated the reſt at the gaming-table.

The aſſociates now ſtopped two gentlemen in a chariot in the Hampſtead Road, who both fired at once, by which three ſlugs were lodged in Hawkins's ſhoulder, and the highwaymen got to London, with ſome difficulty. On Hawkins's recovery they attempted to ſtop a gentleman's coach in Hyde-Park; but the coachman driving haſtily, Wilſon fired, and wounding himſelf in the hand, found it difficult to ſcale the Park wall, to effect his eſcape.

This circumſtance occaſioned ſome ſerious thoughts in his mind, in conſequence of which he ſet out for his mother's houſe in Yorkſhire, where he was kindly received, and fully determined never to recur to his former practices.

While

While he was engaged in his mother's buſineſs, and planning ſchemes for domeſtic happineſs, he was ſent for to a public-houſe, where he found his old acquaintance, Hawkins, in company with George Simpſon, of whom we ſhall have occaſion to relate more in the courſe of this narrative.

Wilſon was ſhocked at ſeeing them, and aſked what could induce them to take ſuch a journey. Hereupon Hawkins ſwore violently, ſaid Wilſon was impeached, and would be taken into cuſtody in a few days. This induced him to go to London with them; but on his arrival he found that the ſtory of the impeachment was falſe.

When in London they formed connections with other thieves, and committed ſeveral robberies, for which ſome of the gang were executed. They frequented a public-houſe at London-Wall, the maſter of which kept a livery ſtable, ſo that they rode out at all hours, and robbed the ſtages, as they were coming into town. They took not only money, but portmanteaus, &c. and divided the booty with Carter, the maſter of the livery ſtable.

In this practice they continued a conſiderable time, till they were apprehended for robbing the mail, which we ſhall have occaſion to mention in the ſequel.

GEORGE SIMPSON was a native of Putney in Surry. His father was a wine-merchant, but being reduced in circumſtances, removed into Lincolnſhire. Young Simpſon kept a public-houſe at Lincoln, and acted as a ſheriff's officer; but quitting the country, he came to London, and was butler to Lord Caſtlemain; after which he lived in ſeveral other creditable places.

He now became acquainted with Hawkins, in company with whom he ſtopped the carriage of Richard Weſt, Eſq. behind Buckingham houſe, from

from whom they took a gold watch, and other valuable articles.

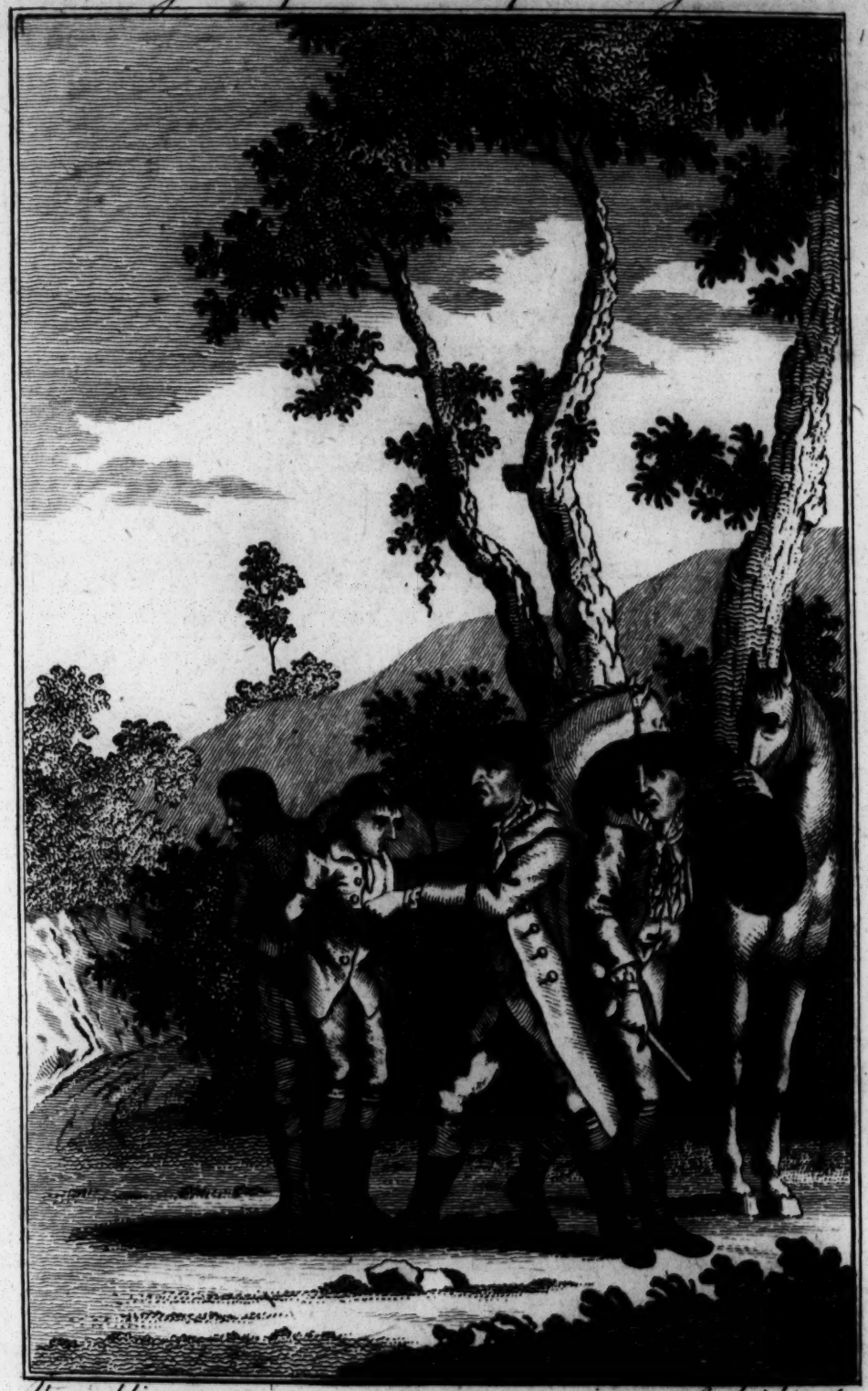
Soon after this he robbed the Portſmouth coach, in company with Wilſon, when one of the company fired at them. Thus they continued their depredations on the public, till one of their aſſociates, named Child, was executed at Ayleſbury, and hung in chains, for robbing the mail. This incenſed them to ſuch a degree that they determined to revenge the ſuppoſed inſult by committing a ſimilar crime.

They mentioned their deſign in the preſence of Carter, the ſtable-keeper, who adviſed them to ſtop the mail from Harwich; but this they declined, becauſe the changing of the wind muſt render the time of its arrival uncertain. At length it was determined that they would rob the Briſtol mail; and they ſet out on an expedition for that purpoſe.

It appeared on the trial that the boy who carried the mail was overtaken at Slough, by a countryman, who travelled with him to Langley-Broom, where a perſon rode up to them and turned back again. When paſſing through Colnbrook they ſaw the ſame man again, with two others, who followed them at a ſmall diſtance, and then pulling their wigs over their foreheads, and holding handkerchiefs in their mouths, came up with them, and commanded the poſt-boy and the countryman to come down a lane, where they ordered them to quit their horſes, and then Hawkins, Simpſon and Wilſon tied them back to back, and faſtened them to a tree in a wet ditch, ſo that they were obliged to ſtand in the water. This being done, they took ſuch papers as they liked out of the Bath and Briſtol bags, and hid the reſt in a hedge.

They

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Vangro delin. *Goodnight sculp.*

THE MAIL ROBBED *near* **COLNBROOK**

by Jn.° Hawkins and Geo. Simpson.



They now croſſed the Thames, and riding a little way into Surry, put up their horſes at an inn in Bermondſey-ſtreet. It was now about ſix in the morning, when they parted, and went different ways to a public-houſe in the Minories, where they propoſed to divide their ill-gotten treaſure.

The landlord being acquainted with the perſons, and knowing the profeſſion of his gueſts, ſhewed them a private room, and ſupplied them with pen and ink. Having equally divided the bank notes, they threw the letters in the fire, and then went to their lodgings in Green-Arbour-Court in the Old-Bailey.

A few days after this tranſaction they were taken into cuſtody, in the following manner. Information having been given at the Poſt-Office, that ſuſpicious people frequented the houſe of Carter, the ſtable-keeper at London-Wall, ſome perſons were ſent thither to make the neceſſary diſcoveries. Wilſon happening to be there at the time, ſuſpected their buſineſs, on which he abruptly retired, ſlipped through ſome bye allies, and got into the Moorgate coffee-houſe, which he had occaſionally uſed for two years before, on account of its being frequented by reputable company, and therefore leſs liable to be ſearched for ſuſpicious people.

He had not been long in the houſe before a quaker mentioned the ſearch that was making in the neighbourhood, for the men who robbed the mail. This ſhocked him ſo that he inſtantly paid his reckoning, and going out at the back-door, went into Bedlam, where the melancholy ſight of the objects around him, induced him to draw a compariſon between their ſituation and his own;

and he concluded that he was far more unhappy through the weight of his guilt, than thoſe poor wretches whom it had pleaſed God to deprive of the uſe of their intellects.

Having reflected that it would not be ſafe for him to ſtay longer in London, he reſolved to go to Newcaſtle by ſea, and he was confirmed in this reſolution, on reflecting that a perſon who wiſhed his ſafety had informed him that he and his companions were the parties ſuſpected of having robbed the mail. This friend likewiſe adviſed him to go to the Poſt-Office, ſurrender, and turn evidence; hinting that if he did not, it was probable Simpſon would; as he had aſked ſome queſtions which ſeemed to intimate ſuch a deſign.

Wilſon neglected this advice; but held his reſolution of going to Newcaſtle; and with that intention quitted Bedlam; but by Moorgate coffee-houſe he met the men he had ſeen at Carter's. They turned and followed him: yet, unperceived by them, he entered the coffee-houſe, while they went under the arch of the gate, and if he had returned by the door he entered, he would have again eſcaped them; but going out of the fore-door of the houſe, they took him into cuſtody, and conducted him to the Poſt-office.

On his firſt examination he refuſed to make any confeſſion: and on the following day, he ſeemed equally determined to conceal the truth, till two circumſtances induced him to reveal it. In the firſt place the Poſt Maſter General promiſed that he ſhould be admitted an evidence if he would diſcover his accomplices; and one of the clerks calling him aſide, ſhewed him a letter, without any name to it, of which the following is a copy:

"SIR,

"SIR,

"I am one of thoſe perſons who robbed the "mails, which I am ſorry for; and, to make "amends, I will ſecure my two companions as "ſoon as may be. He whoſe hand this ſhall ap-"pear to be, will, I hope, be entitled to the re-"ward and his pardon."

As Wilſon knew this letter to be of Simpſon's hand-writing, he thought himſelf juſtified in making a full diſcovery, which he accordingly did, in conſequence of which his aſſociates were apprehended at their lodgings in the Old Bailey, two days afterwards. At firſt they made an appearance of reſiſtance, and threatened to ſhoot the peace-officers; but the latter ſaying they were provided with arms, the offenders yielded, and were committed to Newgate.

On the trial Hawkins endeavoured to prove that he was in London at the time that the mail was robbed; and one Fuller, of Bedfordbury, ſwore that he lodged at his houſe on that night. To aſcertain this, Fuller produced a receipt for thirty ſhillings, which he ſaid Hawkins then paid him for horſe-hire.

The judge deſiring to look at that receipt, obſerved that the body of it was written with an ink of a different colour from that of the name at the bottom: on which he ordered the note to be handed to the jury, and remarked that Fuller's teſtimony deſerved no kind of credit.

After examining ſome other witneſſes, the judge proceeded to ſum up the evidence, in which he was interrupted by a ſingular occurrence, which will be beſt underſtood by our giving it in the words of the ſhort-hand writer.

" My ink, as it happened, was very bad, be-
" ing thick at bottom, and thin and wateriſh at
" top; ſo that according as I dipped my pen,
" the writing appeared very pale or pretty black.
" Now, juſt as the court was remarking on
" the difference of the ink in Fuller's receipt; a
" gentleman who ſtood by me, perceiving ſome-
" thing of the ſame kind in my writing, deſired
" to look upon my notes for a minute. As I was
" not aware of any ill conſequence, I let him
" take the book out of my hand: when preſent-
" ly ſhewing it to his friend, " See here, (ſaid
" he) what difference there is in the colour of the
" ſame ink!" His friend took it and ſhewed it to
" another. Uneaſy at this I ſpoke to them to
" return me my book. They begged my par-
" don, and ſaid I ſhould have it in a minute;
" but this anſwer was no ſooner given, than a
" curioſity ſuddenly entered one of the jurymen
" who ſat juſt by, and he too begged a ſight of
" the book; which, notwithſtanding my impor-
" tunity, was immediately handed to him. He
" viewed it and gave it to the next, and ſo it
" paſſed from one to the other, 'till the judge
" perceiving them very buſy, called to them.
" ——Gentlemen, what are you doing? what
" book is that? They told him it was the writer's
" book, and they were obſerving how the ſame
" ink appeared pale in one place, and black in
" another. You ought not, gentlemen, ſays he,
" to take notice of any thing, but what is pro-
" duced in evidence. And, then, turning to
" me, demanded what I meant by ſhewing that
" to the jury. I anſwered, that I could not fix
" upon the perſons, for the gentlemen near me
" were all ſtrangers to me, and I was far from
" ima-

" imagining I ſhould have any ſuch occaſion for " taking particular notice of them.—His lord- " ſhip then re-aſſumed his charge to the jury, " which, being ended, they withdrew to con- " ſider of their verdict."

After ſtaying out about an hour, the jury returned into court without agreeing on a verdict, ſaying they could not be convinced that Fuller's receipt was not genuine, merely on account of the different colours of the ink.

In anſwer hereto the court intimated how many witneſſes had ſworn that Hawkins was abſent from London; to contradict all whom there was only the evidence of Fuller, which was at leaſt rendered doubtful by the ink appearing of two colours: and it was ſubmitted whether Fuller's ſingle teſtimony ought to be held of equal validity with that of all the oppoſing parties. Hereupon the jury went out of court, and, on their return, gave a verdict of " guilty" againſt both the priſoners.

After ſentence of death they behaved as became perſons in their unfortunate circumſtances: Simpſon in particular appeared to be highly affected with the awfulneſs of his ſituation.

At the place of execution Hawkins addreſſed the ſurrounding multitude, acknowledging that his ſins had brought him to that ſhameful end, profeſſing to die in charity with all mankind, and begging the prayers of thoſe who were witneſſes of his melancholy exit. He died with great difficulty; but Simpſon was out of his pain almoſt without a ſtruggle.

Robbing the mail is a crime of ſo enormous a magnitude, that we are at a loſs to find language in which to expreſs our abhorrence of it. It is inconceivable what diſtreſs may be occaſioned by the perpetration of a fact of this nature. Tradeſ-

men

men who expect remittances by the poſt may be ruined by their not arriving in time; and the bankruptcy of one may be the deſtruction of many. Hence, it is poſſible that hundreds of honeſt manufacturers and other dependants on ſhopkeepers, may ſuffer through the wickedneſs of one man who is baſe enough to rob the mail.

Thoſe who think on this circumſtance muſt ſhudder with horror, if they have any concern for the welfare of their fellow-creatures. It is no wonder that our laws have provided for the puniſhment of this crime in the moſt exemplary manner; and it is obſervable that it is leſs frequent than that of any other ſpecies of robbery. This ſeems to ſhew how dangerous it is held even by thieves; for we cannot ſuppoſe that they are reſtrained from the commiſſion of this crime more than of others, by any ſuperior motives of honeſty, or regard for the public welfare.

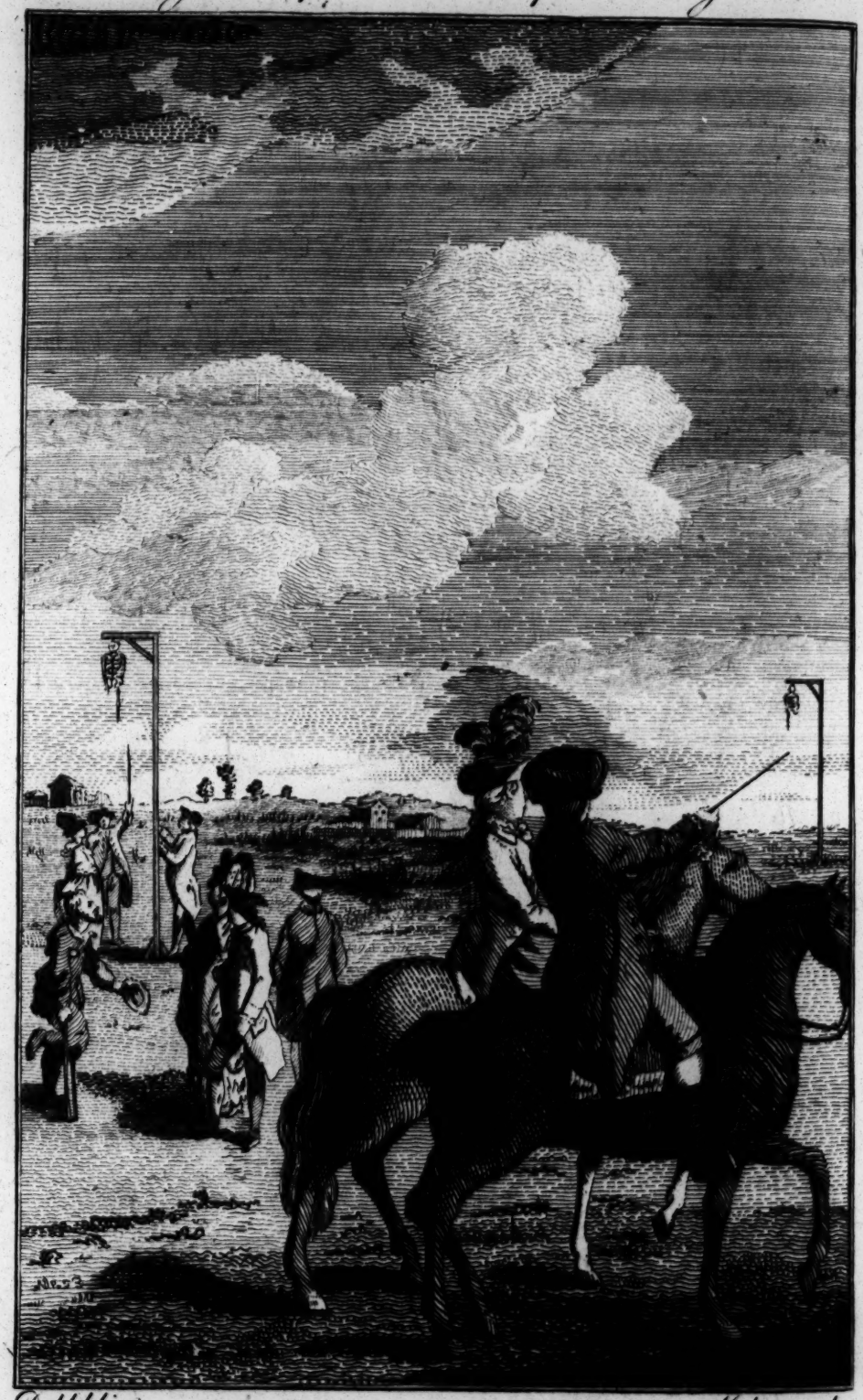
With reſpect to the caſe of the criminals in queſtion, it appears that they had taken every precaution to prevent a diſcovery; but the all-ſeeing eye of Heaven brought their moſt ſecret tranſactions to light. Wilſon's conſciouſneſs of guilt, when he ſaw the perſons from the Poſt-Office at London-Wall; his reflections when in Bedlam, and his being afterwards taken by the accident of going out at the wrong door of the coffee-houſe, are all circumſtances well worthy the notice of the reader.

From Simpſon's ſending a letter, offering to ſecure his companions, we may learn the fallacy of that proverb, which ſays, that there is "ho-"nour among thieves." When once men have broken the band of common honeſty, when they have declared war upon the public, there can be no ſecurity that they will act with integrity to-

wards



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Dodd delin. *Malpas sculp.*

View of **HOUNSLOW HEATH,** *with the* **GIBETS** *and Men hanging in Chains*

wards each other. On the contrary, it is to be preſumed that they will be friends no longer than an outward ſhew of friendſhip may promote their preſent intereſt.

Upon the whole, the fate of theſe malefactors ſhould teach us that there can be no happineſs independent of virtue; and that combinations in wickedneſs muſt be ſoon diſſolved, from their own nature. Wherefore let us be careful in the ſelection of our company; let us remember that money obtained by diſhoneſt means will afford us no ſatisfaction: and may we conſider the force of that proverb of Solomon, "Riches profit not in "the day of wrath; but righteouſneſs delivereth "from death."

The above-mentioned malefactors were hung in chains on Hounſlow-Heath, after being executed at Tyburn, on the 21ſt of May, 1722.

Particulars reſpecting NATHANIEL JACKSON, who was hanged for Robbery.

THIS malefactor was a native of Doncaſter in Yorkſhire, and his father dying while he was very young, left a ſum of money for his uſe in the hands of a relation who apprenticed him to a ſilk-weaver in Norwich. He had frequent diſputes with his maſter, with whom he lived three years and then ran away from him.

At length his guardian found out his retreat, and ſent to inform him that, as he was averſe to buſineſs, his friends wiſhed that a place might be purchaſed for him with the money left by his father. But Jackſon being of an unſettled diſpoſition, enliſted in the army, and was ſent to Ireland,

land, where he engaged in all thoſe ſcenes of low debauchery by which the common ſoldiers are too much diſtinguiſhed.

At length, being diſguſted with his low condition, he ſolicited his diſcharge, which having obtained, he procured ſome money of his friends, and gave fifteen guineas to be admitted into a troop of dragoons; but ſoon quarrelling with one of his comrades, a duel enſued, in which Jackſon wounded the other in a moſt horrid manner, for which he was turned out of the regiment.

He now returned to England, and lived ſome time with his guardian in Yorkſhire; but being averſe to a life of ſobriety, he ſoon went to London, where he ſpent, in the moſt extravagant manner, the little money he brought with him, and was reduced to the utmoſt diſtreſs, when he caſually met John Murphey, and Neal O'Brian, whom he had known in Ireland. After they had drank together O'Brian produced a conſiderable ſum of money, ſaying, "You ſee how I live: "I never want money, and if you have but cou- "rage, and dare walk with me towards Hamp- "ſtead to night, I'll ſhew you how eaſy it is to "get it."

As Jackſon and Murphey were both of diſſolute manners, and very poor, they were eaſily perſuaded to be concerned in this dangerous enterprize. Between Tottenham-Court-Road and Hampſtead they ſtopped a poor man named Dennis, from whom they took his coat, waiſtcoat, two ſhirts, thirteen-pence in money, and ſome other trifling articles; and then bound him to a tree. No ſooner were they gone, than he ſtruggled hard, and got looſe, and meeting a perſon whom he knew, they purſued them to a night-houſe in the Haymarket, where Murphey and Jackſon

Jackſon were taken into cuſtody, but O'Brian made his eſcape.

On their trial, as ſoon as Dennis had given his teſtimony, they owned the fact they had committed, in conſequence of which they received ſentence of death; but Murphey obtained a reprieve. Jackſon's brother exerted all his influence to ſave his life; but his endeavours proving ineffectual, he ſent him a letter to inform him of it, which was written in ſuch an affecting manner as to overwhelm his mind with the moſt pungent affliction.

While under ſentence of death Jackſon behaved in the moſt penitent manner; confeſſed the ſins of his paſt life with the deepeſt ſigns of contrition; was earneſt in his devotions, and made every preparation for his approaching end. He was executed at Tyburn on the 18th of July, 1722.

It is obſervable, in the caſe of this malefactor, that he ſuffered for the firſt robbery he ever committed of which we have any account; and that his vices and extravagance had reduced him to ſuch a ſtate of poverty, as to induce him to liſten to the firſt temptation that was ever thrown in his way.

Hence let the young and thoughtleſs guard againſt the ſlighteſt appearance of evil. Let them ſhun bad company as they would a peſtilence: let them learn the advantages of frugality, and conſider that a man who is temperate and prudent, will have no temptation to be diſhoneſt. It may be uſeful to keep in mind this text of ſcripture, "The wicked ſhall be cut off from the "earth, and the tranſgreſſors ſhall be rooted out "of it."

Caſe of THOMAS BUTLOGE, who was hanged for ſtealing money and other Effects, in the houſe of his Maſter.

THIS offender was a native of Ireland, where he received a good education, and was then apprenticed to a vintner in Dublin; but the houſe in which he lived not being of the moſt reputable kind, he became witneſs to ſuch ſcenes as had a natural tendency to debauch his morals.

Butloge's maſter having got conſiderably in debt, came to England, and reſided ſome time at Cheſter, whither the apprentice was frequently ſent with ſuch remittances as the wife could ſpare. At length Butloge quitted his ſervice, and came to England with a view to ſettle there; but being unſucceſsful in his endeavours to procure an eſtabliſhment, he returned to Dublin, where he engaged in the ſervice of a ſhopkeeper, whoſe daughter he ſoon afterwards married.

He had now a fair proſpect of ſucceſs before him, as his wife's father propoſed to have reſigned buſineſs in his favour; but being of an unſettled diſpoſition, and having conceived an idea of making his fortune in England, he could not bring his mind to think of the regular purſuit of trade.

Unhappily for him, while he was amuſing himſelf with the imagination of his future greatneſs, he received a letter from a relation in England, inviting him thither, and promiſing his intereſt to obtain him a place on which he might live in a genteel manner. Butloge readily accepted this invitation, and immediately embarking for England, ſoon arrived in London.

He

He now took lodgings at the court end of the town, and living in a gay ſtile, ſoon ſpent all the money he had brought with him from Ireland; and his relation not being able to obtain the place for him which he had expected, he was reduced to the neceſſity of going to ſervice, on which he entered into that of Mr. Langlie, a French gentleman.

He had not been long in his new place, when Mr. Langlie, going to church on a Sunday, recollected that he had forgot to lock his bureau, in which he had depoſited a ſum of money; whereupon he went home, and found Butloge in the room where the money was left. When Mr. Langlie had counted his caſh, the other aſked him if he miſſed any thing, and the maſter anſwered one guinea; which Butloge ſaid he had found by the ſide of the bureau; whereupon his maſter gave him two ſhillings, in approbation of this inſtance of his honeſty.

Mr. Langlie went to Chelſea in the afternoon; and during his abſence Butloge broke open his bureau, robbed it of all the money, and ſeveral other valuable effects, and then took a horſe, which he had hired for a gentleman to go to Cheſter, and ſet off on his way to Ireland.

When Mr. Langlie returned in the evening, he diſcovered the loſs he had ſuſtained, on which he applied to lord Gage, who wrote to the poſtmaſter of Cheſter to ſtop the delinquent; in conſequence of which he was apprehended with the ſtolen goods in his poſſeſſion, and ſent to London to take his trial, which happened ſoon afterwards at the Old Bailey, when he was capitally convicted.

After he had received ſentence of death he acknowledged that he was not tempted by want

to the commiſſion of the crime which had brought him into ſuch deplorable circumſtances; but that the vanity of appearing as a gentleman had been one principal inſtigation: and he was encouraged by the conſideration that Mr. Langlie would ſoon return to France, ſo that there would be no perſon to proſecute him. He ſubmitted to his unhappy lot with reſignation, declaring that the thoughts of death did not ſo much terrify him, as the reflection on the diſgrace that he had brought on his family.

He was executed at Tyburn, on the 18th of July, 1722.

From the caſe of Butloge we may ſee the propriety of parents making choice of ſuch profeſſions for their children as will not neceſſarily expoſe them to temptations. The ſcenes he was witneſs to during his apprenticeſhip had, as we have obſerved a natural tendency to debauch his manners; and though they did not abſolutely make a thief of him, yet they prepared his mind for the reception of the firſt ill impreſſion that ſhould be made on it. The poet ſays,

Children, like tender oſiers, take the bow;
And as they firſt are faſhioned always grow.

And to this obſervation the moraliſt may add, that "Nothing is ſo likely to contaminate the "mind, as the ſeeing others proceed in the ways "of pleaſurable iniquity without controul."

The almoſt immediate fate of this man, conſequent on the robbing his maſter, ſhould teach ſervants in general the propriety of behaving with fidelity to their protectors: and his ſtealing Mr. Langlie's money ſo ſoon after receiving a gratuity from him for his ſuppoſed integrity, exhibits an inſtance

inſtance of ingratitude which we hope will never be imitated.

Of late years we have ſeldom known an inſtance of a ſervant's robbing his maſter, and being convicted, but he has ſuffered the utmoſt rigour of the law: and indeed it is proper it ſhould be ſo; for an offence of this nature is one of the moſt enormous crimes of which any perſon can be guilty.

Butloge ſeems to have been, in ſome degree, a ſacrifice to his own pride and ambition. Let thoſe who are tempted to act as he did remember that "A man's pride ſhall bring him low; but "honour ſhall uphold the humble in ſpirit."

Particulars reſpecting MATTHIAS BRINSDEN, who was hanged for Murder.

IN the month of September, 1722, Matthias Brinſden was indicted at the Old Bailey, for the murder of Hannah, his wife, on the 16th of July preceding.

This offender ſerved his time to a cloth-drawer in Blackfriars, named Beech, who dying, was ſucceeded by Mr. Byfield, who left the buſineſs to Brinſden, who married Byfield's widow; but how long ſhe lived with him is uncertain.

After the death of this wife he married a ſecond, by whom he had ten children, ſome of the older of whom were brought up to work at his buſineſs. At length he was ſeized with a fever ſo violent that it diſtracted him; ſo that he was tied down to his bed. This misfortune occaſioned ſuch a decay in his trade, that on his recovery he carried news-papers, and did any other buſineſs he could to ſupport his family.

Going

Going home about nine o'clock one evening, his wife, who was ſitting on a bed, ſuckling a young child, aſked him what ſhe ſhould have for ſupper; to which he anſwered "bread and "cheeſe—Can't you eat that as well as the chil-"dren?" She replied "No, I want a bit of "meat."—"But (ſaid he) I have no money to "buy you any." In anſwer to which ſhe ſaid, "You know I have had but little to-day:" and ſome farther words ariſing between them, he ſtabbed her under the left breaſt with a knife.

The deed was no ſooner perpetrated than one of the daughters ſnatched the infant from the mother's breaſt, and another cried out, "O Lord! "father, you have killed my mother." The priſoner now ſent for ſome baſilicon and ſugar, which he applied to the wound, and then made his eſcape.

A ſurgeon being ſent for found that the wound was mortal; and the poor woman died ſoon after he came, and within half an hour of the time the wound was given.

In the interim the murderer had retreated to the houſe of Mr. King, a barber at Shadwell, whence, on the following day, he ſent a letter to one of his daughters, and another to a woman of his acquaintance; and in conſequence of theſe letters he was diſcovered, taken into cuſtody, carried before a magiſtrate, and committed to take his trial for the murder.

When on trial, he urged in his defence, that his wife was in ſome degree intoxicated, that ſhe wanted to go out and drink with her companions, and that while he endeavoured to hinder her, ſhe threw herſelf againſt the knife, and received an accidental wound.

How-

However, the evidence againſt him was ſo clear, that his allegations had no weight, and he received ſentence of death. After conviction he became ſerious and reſigned, and being viſited by one of his daughters who had given evidence againſt him, he took her in his arms, and ſaid, "God forgive me, I have robbed you of your "mother: be a good child, and rather die than "ſteal: never be in a paſſion; but curb your an-"ger, and honour your miſtreſs; ſhe will be as a "father and mother to you. Farewell my dear "child: pray for your father, and think of him "as favourably as you can."

On his way to the place of execution the daughter above-mentioned was permitted to go into the cart to take her laſt farewell of him, a ſcene that was greatly affecting to the ſpectators.

As ſome reports very unfavourable to this malefactor had been propagated during his confinement, he deſired the ordinary of Newgate to read the following ſpeech juſt before he was launched into eternity.

"I was born of kind parents, who gave me learning; I went apprentice to a fine-drawer. I had often jars, which might increaſe a natural waſpiſhneſs in my temper. I fell in love with Hannah, my laſt wife, and after much difficulty won her, ſhe having five ſailors courting her at the ſame time. We had ten children (half of them dead) and I believe we loved each other dearly; but often quarrelled and fought.

"Pray, good people, mind, I had no malice againſt her, nor thought to kill her two minutes before the deed; but I deſigned only to make her obey me thoroughly, which the ſcripture ſays, all wives ſhould do. This I thought I had done, when

when I cut her ſcull on Monday, but ſhe was the ſame again by Tueſday.

" Good people, I requeſt you to obſerve, that the world has ſpitefully given out, that I carnally and inceſtuouſly lay with my eldeſt daughter. I here ſolemnly declare, as I am entering into the preſence of God, I never knew whether ſhe was man or woman ſince ſhe was a babe. I have often taken her in my arms, often kiſſed her, ſometimes given her a cake or a pye, when ſhe did any particular ſervice, beyond what came to her ſhare; but never lay with her, or carnally knew her, much leſs had a child by her. But when a man is in calamities, and is hated like me, the women will make ſurmiſes be certainties.

" Good chriſtians, pray for me! I deſerve death; I am willing to die; for, though my ſins are great, God's mercies are greater."

He was executed at Tyburn, on the 24th of September, 1722.

If any credit is to be given to Brinſden's laſt ſolemn declaration, his wife as well as himſelf, ſeems to have been of an unhappy diſpoſition; ſince they could not refrain from quarrelling, though they had a ſincere regard for each other. We fear this is but too commonly the caſe in the married ſtate; but it is a lamentable conſideration that thoſe who have engaged to be the mutual comfort and ſupport of each other through life, ſhould render the rugged path ſtill more difficult, by their mutual contentions and animoſities.

It is the part of a huſband to protect his wife from every injury and inſult; to be at once a father and a guardian to her; and ſo far from ill-treating her himſelf, he ought to be particularly watchful that ſhe be not ill-uſed by others: the ten-

tenderer ſex has a natural claim to the protection of the more robuſt. Indeed it appears as if one reaſon why providence beſtowed ſuperior ſtrength on the man, was for the defence and protection of the woman.

On the other hand women ſhould be grateful for this protection; and in the emphatical words of St. Paul, wives ſhould learn to be "obedient "to their huſbands in all things."

It is a very unfortunate circumſtance when perſons of oppoſite ſentiments happen to be united in wedlock: but, even in this caſe, people of ſenſe and humanity will learn to bear with the failings of each other, conſidering that much allowance is to be made for their own faults. They will endeavour to make the lot which has befallen them more ſupportable than it otherwiſe would be; and, in time, by the conſtant wiſh to pleaſe, they may even conciliate the affections of each other, and mutual happineſs may ariſe where it is leaſt expected.

In general, however, a coincidence of temper, and a purity of manners, added to a ſacred regard to religious duties, is the greateſt ſecurity for happineſs in the married ſtate. Beautiful are the lines of the poet:

Two kindeſt ſouls alone ſhould meet,
'Tis friendſhip makes their bondage ſweet,
And feeds their mutual loves:
Bright Venus, on her rolling throne,
Is drawn by gentleſt birds alone,
And cupids yoke the doves.

Account of the Trial of MARGARET FISHER, for privately ſtealing; with the ſingular evidence given againſt her.

IN September 1722, Margaret Fiſher was indicted at the Old Bailey for privately ſtealing thirteen guineas from the perſon of Daniel Macdonald.

As our readers have a claim upon us for matters of entertainment as well as inſtruction, we are ready to gratify them, as we ſhall always be, when it can be done without groſſly violating the laws of decency: and we inſert the following for the ſake of the whimſical ſingularity of the proſecutor's evidence, which was delivered in the following terms.

" And leek yer loardſhip, I had juſt taken my wages, thirteen guineas in goud, and was gawn alang King-ſtrate, in Waſtmanſter, when I mat wi' this fow quean at the bare, and ſhe ſpeird where I was gawn; I taud her hame. She ſaid, gen I wad ga wi' hur tull Joanny Davis's hooſe, ſhe wad gi' me a drame, ſir, for, in troth, ſhe tuck me for a poor gawkey, boſs-headed chiel, and leek yer loardſhip. Sa ſhe tuck haud o' my haind, and lad me a gat I kenna' reet weel. And when we came tull Joanny Davis's hooſe, ſhe caud for muckle beer and braindy, and gard me as bung as a ſwobe, and leek yer hoanour. I ſtaid there wi' her a pratty while; and thane, ſir, I pit my haind intull my bricks, to feel for money to pay the rackoning; but the deel a bawbie could I find, for it was aw tint. And when I ſpeird about it, they glowred, and taud me, gen I wanna' tack my ſelf awaw, they wad gar me ga, wi' a deel to me

me; and ſa ſir, they dang me ſu' ſair, and turned me oot at the back door, intull the ſtrate, and I rambled aboot, and cou' na' find the hooſe agen: and the watchmen mat wi' me, and carried me intull the roond-hooſe. And thare I taud 'em hoo I had been roabed. The neiſt moarning I gade and food oot Joanny Davis's hooſe, but ſhe was rin away and the praſoner too. But at neet, about ſaven a cloke, I' mat wi' this ampudent betch at the bare, and tuck her up. I ken weel enuh that ſhe muſt ha' my goud, for na ſaul alſe was wi' me but joanny Davis, wha brote what we cawd for.—Let her denee it an ſhe can ——ſomebody (but I kenna' whaw it was) offered me ſax guineas in my haind to make the maitter up, but I wanna' tack it."

In her defence the priſoner alledged, that meeting with a coachman and the proſecutor, the former aſked her to drink; on which they went to the houſe of Mrs. Davis; but that ſhe ſat on the oppoſite ſide of the room that the proſecutor did, and had not robbed him; and that nothing was found upon her when ſhe was ſearched.

But the jury not believing her allegations, and as ſhe had no perſons to appear in behalf of her character, ſhe was found guilty, and received ſentence of death. However, ſhe pleaded that ſhe was with child; and a jury of matrons finding this to be the fact, ſhe had the good fortune to be reſpited, and afterwards pardoned.

The remark to be made on this caſe ariſes from the folly of thoſe men who will ſuffer themſelves to be robbed by the women of the town. Nothing is more common than for countrymen to be picked up by theſe abandoned creatures, who entice them to drink, and then ſtrip them of their

whole property. One would imagine that the repeated accounts of theſe tranſactions given in the news-papers might be ſufficient to guard all men againſt the artifices of theſe wretches: but experience proves the contrary. It may therefore be proper to caution our readers from a higher authority than that of the newſpapers.

" My ſon attend unto my wiſdom; and bow " thine ear to my underſtanding:—that thou " mayeſt regard diſcretion, and that thy lips may " keep knowledge:—for the lips of a ſtrange wo- " man drop as a honey-comb, and her mouth is " ſmoother than oil:—but her end is bitter as " wormwood, ſharp as a two-edged ſword: her " feet go down to death; her ſteps take hold on " hell."—Proverbs, chap. v. firſt five verſes.

Particulars reſpecting ROBERT WILKINSON, JAMES LINCOLN, and THOMAS MILKSOP, who were hanged for Murder.

THESE offenders were tried for a murder which aroſe from the following circumſtance.

Having agreed to commit a robbery together, they ſtopped a gentleman's coach on the road to Kenſington, and having robbed him of a ſum of money, ran off; and ſoon afterwards meeting a Chelſea penſioner who had a gun in his hand, they ordered him to deliver it; but the man refuſing to do it, Wilkinſon ſtabbed him repeatedly through the back with a hanger; and when they ſaw the man was dead, they haſtily decamped,

ed, committed ſome robberies on coaches in the road, and then went to London.

On the following day they were apprehended and committed to priſon; and being ſoon afterwards brought to their trial at the Old Bailey, they were convicted, and received ſentence of death.

It will be now proper to give ſuch an account of theſe offenders as we have been able to collect.—Robert Wilkinson was the ſon of poor parents in St. Giles's, and having miſſed the advantages of education, became an aſſociate of coachmen, carmen, and others the loweſt of the people. At length he grew to be a dextrous boxer, and frequented Hockley-in-the-Hole, and other blackguard places in the neighbourhood of London.

After this he commenced footpad, and committed a great variety of robberies, attended with many circumſtances of cruelty. Frequently did he knock men down with bludgeons; and when he had robbed women, it was a common practice with him to ſtrip them naked, bind them to trees, and leave them in that calamitous ſituation.

He continued this way of life alone for ſome years, and then connected himſelf with the other villains whoſe names are mentioned in this narrative.

James Lincoln was likewiſe born of mean parents, nor was any more care taken of his education than of Wilkinſon's. For ſome time he ſerved the hackney-coachmen and carmen, and afterwards committed an immenſe number of footpad robberies in the roads near London; and ſo frequent were his depredations of this kind, that honeſt men were afraid to paſs alone about their lawful buſineſs.

He had been ſo ſucceſsful in his adventures, and had ſo often eſcaped detection, that he grew ſo hardened as to watch four nights at the end of Queen-ſtreet, Lincoln's-inn-fields, to rob the duke of Newcaſtle of his George, though he knew that his grace had always a number of ſervants in his train.

Being diſappointed of this booty, he went on foot to Hyde-park, where he robbed a gentleman in his carriage, and eluded all purſuit. The money he acquired by his robberies was ſpent in the moſt extravagant manner; and at length he became acquainted with the other ſubjects of this narrative, and was concerned in the crime which ended in their mutual ruin.

THOMAS MILKSOP was a native of London, and was bound apprentice to a vintner, in which ſtation he became familiar to ſome ſcenes of irregularity that had a natural tendency to corrupt his morals. When the term of his apprenticeſhip was expired, he attached himſelf to ſome abandoned women, and got connected with an infamous gang of houſebreakers and other thieves, who committed numberleſs depredations on the public.

Milkſop having, by one of his night-robberies, acquired a conſiderable ſum of money, bought a horſe, and rode out in the character of a highwayman: but not meeting with any ſucceſs in this way, he returned to his former practices, and then engaged with a gang, of which Wilkinſon and Lincoln were two, and was concerned in a great number of other facts, beſides that which brought him to a fatal end.

The behaviour of theſe malefactors under ſentence of death was rather hardened. They had been guilty of a great number of offences, for which

which they did not appear to have a proper concern. Such was the conduct of Wilkinſon, that the Ordinary of Newgate refuſed to adminiſter the ſacrament to him, on which he ſaid if he was not allowed to go to heaven with others, he would find the way alone. Lincoln profeſſed himſelf a Roman Catholic; and Milkſop, among his other offences, particularly lamented the committing a rape on a poor woman whom he robbed near Caen-wood *.

Theſe offenders ſuffered death at Tyburn, on the 24th of September, 1722.

There is nothing ſo remarkable in the caſe of theſe criminals as the ill conſequences reſulting from a want of education, and the being witneſs to ſcenes of debauchery. The former was the caſe of Wilkinſon and Lincoln, and the latter of Milkſop. From their fate then, let parents, in whatever ſphere of life, be taught to give their children as good an education as is in their power; and be particularly careful not to place them in ſituations liable to corrupt their morals. It is one of the moſt excellent parts of the moſt excellent prayer in the world, "Lead us not into temp-"tation."

Particulars reſpecting RICHARD OAKY, JOHN LEVEE, and MATTHEW FLOOD, who were hanged for a Robbery.

RICHARD OAKY was a native of London, and bound apprentice to a taylor, with whom

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* Caen-Wood is the ſeat of Lord Mansfield, and ſituated between Hampſtead and Highgate.

whom he ſerved about two years, and then running away, got into company with a ſet of blackguard boys who procured a miſerable ſubſiſtence by picking of pockets; and then they proceeded to the practice of cutting off the pockets of women.

In order to do this effectually, one of them uſed to trip up the woman's heels, while the other cut off the pocket, and they generally got out of the reach of detection before the party robbed could recover her legs.

Theſe kind of robberies were very common formerly, but of late years they have been very ſeldom practiſed.

Many of Oaky's aſſociates belonging to Jonathan Wild's gang, that infernal villain had cauſed ſeveral of them to be hanged, when he could make no farther advantage of them. Having thus loſt his old acquaintance, he became connected with a woman of the town, who taught him the following ſingular method of robbery.

They uſed to walk through the ſtreets, the woman going a little before Oaky, and when ſhe obſerved a lady walking near where a coach was turning, ſhe uſed to catch her in her arms, crying, "Take care, madam, you will be run over;" and in the interim Oaky was certain to cut off her pocket:—but this way of life did not laſt long, for this abandoned woman ſoon after died, in conſequence of ſome bruiſes ſhe received from a fellow ſhe had ill-treated: and on her death Oaky followed the practice of ſnatching of pockets without a partner, and became one of the moſt dexterous in his profeſſion.

Not long after this he became acquainted with ſeveral houſebreakers, who perſuaded him to follow their courſe of life, as more profitable than ſteal-

ſtealing of pockets. In the firſt attempt they were ſucceſsful; but the ſecond, in which two others were concerned with him, was the breaking open a ſhop in the borough, from whence they ſtole a quantity of callimancoes; for which offence Oaky was apprehended; on which he impeached his accomplices, one of whom was hanged, and the other tranſported, on his evidence.

Deterred from the thoughts of houſe-breaking by this adventure, Oaky returned for a while to his old employment, and then became acquainted with a man called Will the Sailor, when their plan of robbery was this: Will, who wore a ſword, uſed to affront perſons in the ſtreets, and provoke them till they ſtripped to fight with him; and then Oaky uſed to decamp with their cloaths. However theſe aſſociates in iniquity ſoon quarrelled and parted, and Oaky, who by this time was an accompliſhed thief, entered into Jonathan Wild's gang.

JOHN LEVEE was the ſon of a French gentleman who reſided ſome time in England during the reign of Charles the ſecond, and taught the French language to three natural ſons of that prince; but he retired to Holland, and there died, ſoon after the advancement of King William to the throne. Young Levee was educated at the expence of the French proteſtants in London, and was then bound apprentice to a captain in the royal navy.

He ſerved as a ſailor for ſome years, and was preſent at the defeat of the Spaniſh fleet in the Mediterranean, in Queen Anne's reign; and afterwards ſailed under Admiral Norris, in his fruitleſs expedition againſt the Ruſſian fleet in the Baltick.

whom he ſerved about two years, and then running away, got into company with a ſet of blackguard boys who procured a miſerable ſubſiſtence by picking of pockets; and then they proceeded to the practice of cutting off the pockets of women.

In order to do this effectually, one of them uſed to trip up the woman's heels, while the other cut off the pocket, and they generally got out of the reach of detection before the party robbed could recover her legs.

Theſe kind of robberies were very common formerly, but of late years they have been very ſeldom practiſed.

Many of Oaky's aſſociates belonging to Jonathan Wild's gang, that infernal villain had cauſed ſeveral of them to be hanged, when he could make no farther advantage of them. Having thus loſt his old acquaintance, he became connected with a woman of the town, who taught him the following ſingular method of robbery.

They uſed to walk through the ſtreets, the woman going a little before Oaky, and when ſhe obſerved a lady walking near where a coach was turning, ſhe uſed to catch her in her arms, crying, "Take care, madam, you will be run over;" and in the interim Oaky was certain to cut off her pocket:—but this way of life did not laſt long, for this abandoned woman ſoon after died, in conſequence of ſome bruiſes ſhe received from a fellow ſhe had ill-treated: and on her death Oaky followed the practice of ſnatching of pockets without a partner, and became one of the moſt dexterous in his profeſſion.

Not long after this he became acquainted with ſeveral houſebreakers, who perſuaded him to follow their courſe of life, as more profitable than ſteal-

ſtealing of pockets. In the firſt attempt they were ſucceſsful; but the ſecond, in which two others were concerned with him, was the breaking open a ſhop in the borough, from whence they ſtole a quantity of callimancoes; for which offence Oaky was apprehended; on which he impeached his accomplices, one of whom was hanged, and the other tranſported, on his evidence.

Deterred from the thoughts of houſe-breaking by this adventure, Oaky returned for a while to his old employment, and then became acquainted with a man called Will the Sailor, when their plan of robbery was this: Will, who wore a ſword, uſed to affront perſons in the ſtreets, and provoke them till they ſtripped to fight with him; and then Oaky uſed to decamp with their cloaths. However theſe aſſociates in iniquity ſoon quarrelled and parted, and Oaky, who by this time was an accompliſhed thief, entered into Jonathan Wild's gang.

JOHN LEVEE was the ſon of a French gentleman who reſided ſome time in England during the reign of Charles the ſecond, and taught the French language to three natural ſons of that prince; but he retired to Holland, and there died, ſoon after the advancement of King William to the throne. Young Levee was educated at the expence of the French proteſtants in London, and was then bound apprentice to a captain in the royal navy.

He ſerved as a ſailor for ſome years, and was preſent at the defeat of the Spaniſh fleet in the Mediterranean, in Queen Anne's reign; and afterwards ſailed under Admiral Norris, in his fruitleſs expedition againſt the Ruſſian fleet in the Baltick.

When the admiral came back to England, Levee's friends recommended him to the ſervice of a merchant in Thames-ſtreet, in the capacity of under clerk, for which he was not ill qualified: but being of too unſettled a temper to apply himſelf to buſineſs, he declined this opportunity of providing for himſelf, and ſoon ſpent the little money he was poſſeſſed of.

Going one evening to a public-houſe in Holborn, he met with ſome thieves of Jonathan Wild's gang, who ſoon perſuaded him to join them in their lawleſs depredations, which at length brought him to deſtruction.

MATTHEW FLOOD was the ſon of parents of good character, and born at Shadwell. He was apprenticed to a lighterman, with whom he lived a conſiderable time: but being averſe to a life of labour, his maſter and he parted by joint conſent; and ſoon afterwards he became acquainted with Oaky and Levee, and their diſſolute companions.

The robberies committed by this gang are too numerous for recital: they were for ſome time the terror of travellers near London. We ſhall mention only one robbery excluſive of that for which they ſuffered.

They ſtopped a coach between Camberwell and London, in which were five men and a woman. The men ſaid they would deliver their money, but begged they would not ſearch, as the lady was with child. Among the gang was Blueſkin, * who holding a hat, received the money the paſſengers put into it, which appeared to be a conſiderable ſum, but on examination it was

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* An account of this malefactor will appear in the following pages.

found

found to be chiefly halfpence. The gang ſuſpected that Blueſkin had defrauded them, as it was not the firſt time he had cheated his fellow-thieves: but they were greatly mortified that they had neglected to ſearch the coach, when they afterwards learnt that there were three hundred pounds in it.

Some time after this Oaky, Levee, Flood and Blueſkin, ſtopped colonel Cope and Mr. Young in a carriage, on their return from Hampſtead, and robbed them of their watches, rings and money. Information of this robbery was ſent to Jonathan Wild, who cauſed the parties to be apprehended; and Blueſkin being admitted an evidence, they were tried, convicted, ſentenced, and ordered for execution.

After conviction their behaviour was exceedingly proper for perſons in their calamitous ſituation. They did not flatter themſelves with vain hopes of a pardon; but exerted themſelves by every act of devotion, to make a proper preparation for their approaching end.

At the laſt ſcene of their lives they addreſſed the ſpectators, adviſing them to take warning by their fatal end.

Oaky ſaid that what gave him more concern than all his other offences was the burning a will which he found with ſome money and rings in a pocket which he had cut from a lady's ſide; a circumſtance which proved highly detrimental to the owner.

Theſe offenders ſuffered at Tyburn, on the 8th of February, 1723.

In this, as in almoſt every other inſtance before us, we ſee that the ways of vice lead to deſtruction: to preſent diſgrace, certain death, and perpetual infamy. We learn alſo the falſhood of

that common maxim that there is "honour a-"mong thieves." Oaky became an evidence againſt his aſſociates, in conſequence of which one of them was hanged, and the other tranſported. After this Blueſkin became an evidence againſt Oaky and his two companions, all of whom ſuffered the utmoſt rigour of the law. Jonathan Wild made tools of theſe poor wretches for a while; and when they had run their career, he gave them up to public juſtice.

What a picture does this furniſh of the calamitous life of a thief, who has not one friend in whom he can confide, nor can he think himſelf in ſecurity even for a ſingle moment! The terrors of his conſcience muſt for ever haunt him: ſleep muſt fly from his eyes, and peace from his breaſt. The gallows muſt be continually in his view, and every previous hour of his life muſt be imbittered by reflecting on the diſgraceful one that is to end it.

Shun then the paths of vice, "keep the com-"mandments of God; and write them upon the "table of thine heart. Whoſo ſinneth againſt "God wrongeth his own ſoul; and all they that "hate him love death."

Caſe of CHRISTOPHER LAYER, Eſq. who was hanged for High-Treaſon.

MR. LAYER was born of very reſpectable parents, and received a liberal education, which being compleated at the Univerſity, he was entered a ſtudent of the honourable ſociety of the Inner Temple. After the cuſtomary time he was called to the bar, entered on the profeſſion

of a counſellor at law, and had ſo much practice that he ſeemed to be in the high road of making a large fortune.

Francis Atterbury, biſhop of Rocheſter, had been diſabled from holding his preferments in the church, by an act of parliament paſſed in the year 1722, and was baniſhed from England for life for his treaſonable practices: and about this period ſeveral other perſons were concerned in ſimilar deſigns, among whom counſellor Layer was one of the moſt diſtinguiſhed.

This infatuated man made a journey to Rome, where he held ſeveral conferences with the Pretender, to whom he promiſed that he would effect ſo ſecret a revolution in England, that no perſon in authority ſhould be apprized of the ſcheme till it had actually taken place.

Impreſſed with the idea that it was poſſible to carry his ſcheme into execution, he came to England with a determination to effect it. His plan was to hire an aſſaſſin to murder the king on his return from Kenſington; and this being done, the other parties engaged in the plot were to ſeize the guards; and the prince of Wales and his children, and the great officers of ſtate, were to be ſeized and confined during the confuſion that ſuch an event would naturally produce.

Among others concerned in this ſtrange ſcheme was lord Grey, an antient nobleman of the Roman Catholic religion, who died a priſoner in the Tower before the neceſſary legal proceedings againſt him could take place.

Mr. Layer having ſettled a correſpondence with ſeveral Roman Catholics, Nonjurors, and other perſons diſaffected to the government, he engaged a ſmall number of diſbanded ſoldiers, who were to be the principal actors in the intended tragedy.

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The counſellor met theſe ſoldiers at a public-houſe at Stratford in Eſſex, where he gave them the neceſſary inſtructions for ſeizing the king on his return from the palace, and even fixed on the day when the plan was to be carried into execution.

Some of the people of the public-houſe having overheard the treaſonable converſation, ſpoke of it publicly in the neighbourhood; and ſome other circumſtances of ſuſpicion ariſing, Mr. Layer was taken into cuſtody by one of the king's meſſengers, in conſequence of a warrant from the ſecretary of ſtate.

At this time Mr. Layer had two women in keeping, one in Southampton-Buildings, and the other in Queen-Street, to both of whom he had given intimations of the ſcheme he had in hand. The lodgings of theſe women being ſearched, ſuch a number of treaſonable papers were found, that the intentions of the counſellor appeared evident. When he was apprized that his papers were ſeized, and the women bound to give evidence againſt him, he diſpatched a meſſenger to the ſecretary of ſtate, informing him that he would make a diſcovery of all he knew, if he might be permitted the uſe of pen, ink and paper. This requiſition was inſtantly complied with, and it was the prevailing opinion that he would have been admitted an evidence againſt his accomplices, if he had made the promiſed diſcovery: but it will appear that he had no ſuch intention.

Behind the houſe of the meſſenger in which he was confined there was a yard, which communicated with the yard of a public houſe adjoining, and Mr. Layer thought, if he could get from his confinement, it would be no difficult matter to eſcape through the tap-room of the alehouſe, where

where it was not probable that he ſhould be known.

Having digeſted his plan, he cut the blankets of his bed into pieces, and tied them together, and in the duſk of the evening dropped from his window; but falling on a bottle-rack in the yard, he overſet it; and the noiſe occaſioned by the breaking of the bottles was ſuch that the family was alarmed; but Layer eſcaped during the confuſion occaſioned by this incident.

Almoſt diſtracted by the loſs of his priſoner, the meſſenger went in ſearch of him, and finding that he had taken a boat at the Horſe-Ferry, Weſtminſter, he croſſed the water after him, purſued him through St. George's-Fields, and catched him at Newington-Butts. Having brought him back to his houſe, and guarded him properly for that night, he was examined by the ſecretary of ſtate on the following day, and committed to Newgate.

The king and council now determined that no time ſhould be loſt in bringing Layer to a trial; wherefore a writ was iſſued from the Crown-Office, directed to the ſheriff of Eſſex, commanding him to impannel a grand jury, to enquire into ſuch bills as ſhould be preſented againſt the priſoner: in conſequence of which the jury met at Rumford, and found a bill againſt him for high-treaſon, and this bill was returnable into the Court of King's-Bench.

Soon after the bill was found the trial came on before Sir John Pratt, lord chief juſtice, and the other judges of that court. Mr. Layer had two counſellors to plead for him, and they urged every poſſible argument that could be thought of in his behalf; conteſting every minute circumſtance with the council for the crown, during a

trial

trial that laſted ſixteen hours; but at length the jury found the priſoner guilty, after having been out of court about an hour.

When the priſoner was brought up to receive ſentence his council made another effort in his behalf, by urging the informality of ſome of the legal proceedings againſt him; but their arguments being thought inſufficient, the ſentence ordained by law was paſſed on him.

As he had ſome important affairs to ſettle, from the nature of his profeſſion, the court did not order his execution till more than two months after he had been condemned; and the king repeatedly reprieved him, to prevent his clients being ſufferers by his affairs being left in a ſtate of confuſion.

After conviction Mr. Layer was committed to the Tower, and at length the ſheriffs of London and Middleſex received a warrant to execute the ſentence of the law; in conſequence of which he was drawn on a ſledge to Tyburn, dreſſed in a ſuit of black full trimmed, and a tye-wig.

At the place of execution he was aſſiſted in his devotions by a nonjuring clergyman; and when theſe were ended, he ſpoke to the ſurrounding multitude, declaring that he deemed King James (ſo he called the pretender) his lawful ſovereign. He ſaid that King George was an uſurper, and damnation would be the fate of thoſe who ſupported his government. He inſiſted that the nation would never be in a ſtate of peace till the pretender was reſtored; and therefore adviſed the people to take up arms in his behalf: he profeſſed himſelf willing to die for the cauſe; and expreſſed great hopes that providence would effectually ſupport the right heir to the throne on ſome future occaſion, though himſelf had failed

of

of being the happy inſtrument of placing him thereon.

He was hanged at Tyburn on the 15th of March, 1723, and his body being quartered, his head was placed over Temple-Bar.

Mr. Layer is ſaid to have been a man of ſenſe, and from his education and profeſſion, we may preſume that he was a man of learning; yet his conduct was ſuch as, one would imagine, no perſon above the level of an ideot could have been guilty of. The ſcheme he undertook was abſurd in the higheſt degree; and his folly in revealing his ſentiments to the women whom he kept, was as egregious as his guilt was glaring.

Thoſe who preach up the nonſenſe of a divine indefeaſible right inherent in kings, may poſſibly admire the madneſs by which this man was inſpired: but Engliſhmen ought to be thankful that their ſovereigns can govern only in conformity to the laws: laws more perfect than thoſe which human wiſdom has yet framed in any other country under Heaven. We cannot conclude this account more properly than in the words of the poet:

Remember, O my friends, the laws, the rights,
The generous plan of power delivered down
From age to age, by your renowned forefathers;
O, let it never periſh in your hands!
But piouſly tranſmit it to your children!

Particulars reſpecting WILLIAM BURK, who was hanged for Robberies.

THIS offender was born of poor parents, in St. Catherine's near the Tower, and educated in the charity-ſchool of that diſtrict. The boy's temper was naturally bad, and the ill-judged fondneſs of his mother made it ſtill worſe, for ſhe indulged him in all his demands however unreaſonable.

This diſpoſition made him think the diſcipline of the ſchool ſevere; and indeed the maſter was obliged to be more ſtrict with him than with the other boys.

Having reached the eleventh year of his age, he was guilty of ſome faults that required ſevere chaſtiſement, which having received, he ran away from ſchool, and went to the water-ſide, enquiring for a ſtation on board a ſhip. A man obſerving his inclination, took him down to the Nore, and put him on board the Saliſbury man of war.

The mother learning where her darling boy was gone, followed him on board the ſhip, and endeavoured to prevail on him to return; but in vain; for the youth was obſtinately bent on a ſeafaring life.

In about a fortnight the ſhip ſailed for Jamaica, and during the voyage had an engagement with a Spaniſh galleon, which ſhe took after a bloody and obſtinate fight, in which young Burk was wounded. After this they met with another galleon, which they took without the loſs of a man: —but a woman, the only one on board, having the curioſity to look on the deck, loſt her life by a chain-ſhot, which ſevered her head from her body. The common men ſhared each fifteen pounds

pounds prize-money on theſe captures, but ſome of the principal officers got ſufficient to make them eaſy for life.

The ſhip was ſtationed for three years in the Weſt-Indies, during which Burk learnt the art of ſtealing every thing that he could ſecrete without detection. At Jamaica there was a woman who had been tranſported from Newgate ſome years before, but having married a planter who ſoon died, ſhe was left in affluent circumſtances, and took a tavern. Wanting a white ſervant, ſhe prevailed on the captain to let Will attend her cuſtomers.

The boy was pleaſed with his new ſituation, and might have continued in it as long as he was on the iſland, but he could not refrain from defrauding his miſtreſs; but ſhe, who had been herſelf a thief, ſoon detected him. Hereupon he fell on his knees, and begged pardon; which was granted, but he was ordered to depart the houſe immediately.

Alarmed by the danger from which he had eſcaped, he ſeems to have formed a temporary reſolution to live honeſtly in future, and with that view ſhipped himſelf for Maryland, where a merchant would have employed him, but the captain he ſailed with would not permit him to accept the offer. Hence he made a voyage to the coaſt of Guinea, where he had a very narrow eſcape from being murdered by the natives, who killed ſeveral of his ſhipmates.

On the return of the ſhip from Guinea to England, the weather was ſo bad, that they were five months on their voyage to the port of Briſtol, during which they ſuffered innumerable hardſhips. Their proviſions were ſo reduced, that they were almoſt famiſhed, the allowance of each

man for a whole day being not ſo much as he could eat at two mouthfuls; and at length they were obliged to faſt five days ſucceſſively.

However, they reached the port in ſafety; and notwithſtanding the miſeries they had endured, the captain reſolved on another voyage to Guinea, in which Burk accompanied him. Having purchaſed a number of ſlaves, they ſet ſail for the Weſt-India Iſlands: but during the voyage the negroes concerted a ſcheme to make themſelves maſters of the ſhip; and would have probably carried it into execution, but that one of their aſſociates betrayed them, in conſequence of which they were more ſtrictly confined than they had hitherto been.

Burk ſailed from the Weſt-Indies to England, where he entered on board a man of war, and ſailed up the Baltic, and afterwards to Archangel in the north of Ruſſia, where his ſufferings, from the extremity of the cold, and other circumſtances, were ſo ſevere that, on his return to England, he determined to abandon the life of a ſailor.

Being now quite out of all honeſt methods of getting his bread, he took to robbing paſſengers in and near Stepney; but he continued his depredations on the public only for a ſhort time, being apprehended for committing the fourth robbery.

He was indicted at the ſeſſions held at the Old Bailey in February, 1723, for robbing William Fitzer on the highway; and again on the ſame day, for robbing James Weſtwood; and being found guilty on both indictments, he received ſentence of death.

There was ſomething remarkably cruel in the conduct of this malefactor; for he carried a hedge-bill with him to terrify the perſons he ſtopped:

ſtopped: and one old man heſitating to comply with his demands, he cut him ſo that he fell to the ground.

After conviction he became ſenſible of the enormity of his crimes; received the ſacrament with great devotion, and declared that if he obtained mercy from God it muſt be through the merits of Jeſus Chriſt.

He was executed at Tyburn on the 8th of April, 1723, in the 22d year of his age.

The crimes and ſufferings of this unhappy wretch ſeem to have ariſen, in great meaſure, from his mother's unreaſonable indulgence of him. It is but too common with women of the lower ranks of life to ruin their children by an extravagant tenderneſs. Bad habits may be often ſtopped in the bud, by timely correction; but, "he that ſpareth the rod, ſpoileth the "child." A religious education is the beſt preventive remedy againſt a life of vice, and it would well become parents to purchaſe ſuch books as are moſt calculated to impreſs the mind with a proper idea of things ſacred.*

The adventures of this malefactor naturally lead us to ſay ſomething of the ſlave-trade; a trade, which is a diſgrace to this kingdom, as it mili-

* For this purpoſe we would earneſtly recommend a book called "The HOLY BIBLE in VERSE, by JOHN FELLOWS;" which comprizes the hiſtory of the Holy Bible as contained in the Old and New Teſtaments. This book conſiſts of four volumes in octavo: but thoſe whom it may not ſuit to purchaſe the whole together, may have it in 16 weekly numbers, at ſixpence each. It is elegantly printed, and has the advantage of being adorned with a number of fine copper-plate cuts repreſenting the principal ſubjects of the ſacred hiſtory. By this book being written in verſe, the ſacred doctrines it contains are the more forcibly impreſſed on the mind.

militates againſt all the rights of humanity. Can any man in his ſenſes ſuppoſe that the complexion of his fellow-creature can operate in his diſfavour with that Almighty Being who has created all the univerſe, and is equally the father of all perſons of all complexions. To ſuppoſe that a black man is leſs the object of the Divine favour than one of a lighter caſt, is an affront to that God who is the author of light and of darkneſs: and in ſpite of all that can be urged in favour of the ſlave-trade, we know that it is founded in avarice, carried on in cruelty, and ought to end in the deſtruction of thoſe who practice it.

Singular Caſe of ALEXANDER DAY, who was convicted of defrauding ſeveral Tradeſmen.

IN modern times we have had ſeveral inſtances of villains who have proceeded on a ſimilar plan with Day; but as few of them have cut ſo great a figure, nor any of them met with a fate exactly ſimilar, we ſhall be the more particular in our account of this artful villain.

Day was a profeſſed ſharper, who pretended to be a man of fortune. He aſſumed the title of Marmaduke Davenport, Eſq. and taking a large houſe in Queen's-Square, aſſerted that he poſſeſſed a capital eſtate in the north of England.

He had a footman who ſeems to have been an accomplice with him. This man he ſent to a livery-ſtable, to enquire the price of a pair of horſes, which he himſelf afterwards agreed to purchaſe, and then deſired the ſtable-keeper to recommend him a coachman, a man rather luſty,

as

as he had a ſuit of livery cloaths of a large ſize by him.

The man was accordingly recommended, but when the livery was tried on, Day obſerved that as they did not fit him, he would ſend into the country for his own coachman; but this objection was obviated by the footman, who ſaying that the cloaths would fit with a ſmall alteration, the 'Squire conſented to hire the man.

When the ſtable-keeper ſaw the coachman he had recommended, he enquired to what places he had driven his new maſter; and being informed, to the duke of Montague's, and other perſons of rank, he ſeemed ſatisfied; though he had began to form ideas unfavourable to his new cuſtomer.

Mr. Day having kept this coach and horſes ſomething more than a week, gave orders to be driven to a coffee-houſe in Red Lion Square, where he drank half a pint of wine at the bar, and aſked if ſome gentlemen were come, whom he expected to ſupper. Being anſwered in the negative, he went out at the back door, without paying for his wine, and ſaid he would return in a few minutes. The coachman waited a long time, but his maſter not coming back, he drove to the ſtable-keeper's, who ſeemed glad to have recovered his property out of ſuch dangerous hands.

It ſeems that Day made no ſmall uſe of this coach while it was in his poſſeſſion. He drove to the ſhop of a lace-merchant named Graveſtock, and aſked for ſome Spaniſh-point: but the dealer having none of that kind by him, the 'Squire ordered fifty-five pounds worth of gold lace to be ſent to his houſe in Queen's-Square. When Graveſtock's ſervant carried the lace, Day deſired him

him to tell his maſter to call, as he was in want of lace for ſome rich liveries, but he muſt ſpeak with his taylor before he could aſcertain the quantity wanted. Mr. Graveſtock attended his new cuſtomer, who gave him ſo large an order for lace, that if he had executed it, he muſt have been a very conſiderable loſer, and the 'Squire's liveries would have been gayer than thoſe of any nobleman in London: however, on the following day, he carried ſome lace of the ſort he had left before; nor did he forget to take his bill with him; but the perſon who ſhould have paid it was decamped.

The next trick practiſed by our adventurer was as follows: he went to the houſe of Mr. Markham, a goldſmith, and ordered a gold equipage worth 50l. Markham carried home the equipage, and had the honour to drink tea with the ſuppoſed Mr. Davenport, who ordered other curious articles, and among the reſt a chain of gold for his ſquirrel.

Mr. Markham obſerving that the ſquirrel wore a ſilver chain which he had ſold to a lady not long before, began to ſuſpect his new cuſtomer; and waiting on the lady, enquired if ſhe knew Marmaduke Davenport, Eſq.—She anſwered in the negative; on which Markham mentioned the circumſtance that had ariſen, and deſcribed the perſon of the defrauder. The lady now recollected him, and ſaid that his name was Alexander Day, and that he had cheated her of property to a conſiderable amount. In conſequence of this information Markham arreſted the ſharper, and recovered his property.

On another occaſion Day went in his carriage to the ſhop of a linen-draper named Schrimſhaw, agreed for linen to the amount of 48l. and ordered

dered a large quantity to be ſent to his houſe on the following day, when he would pay for the whole. The firſt parcel was delivered; but the purchaſer was decamped when the linen-draper went with the ſecond.

After this he went to the ſhop of a tea-dealer named Kendrick, and ordered tea to the amount of 26l. The tea was ſent in, and the proprietor called for payment, when Day gave him orders for a farther quantity, which he pretended to have forgot before; and told him to call the next morning, when he ſhould be paid for it by the ſteward. The honeſt tea-dealer called the next day, but neither the 'Squire nor the ſteward were to be found.

His next adventure was contrived to defraud Mr. Hinchcliffe, a ſilk mercer. Day going to his ſhop in his abſence, left word for him to call at his houſe to receive a large order. The mercer went, and ſaw a carriage at the door, and being told that the 'Squire had company, he waited a ſhort time, during which the ſervants took care to inform him that Mr. Davenport was the ſon of a baronet of Yorkſhire, and poſſeſſed a large fortune in that county.

When he ſaw the ſuppoſed Mr. Davenport, he was told that he wanted ſome valuable ſilks, and wiſhed that a quantity might be ſent, for him to ſelect ſuch as he approved. Mr. Hinchliffe ſaid that the choice would be much better made by fixing on the patterns at his ſhop.

Hereupon Day took the mercer in his coach, and on their way he talked of his father Sir Marmaduke, and of other people of rank; and ſaid he was on the point of marriage with the daughter of counſellor Ward, and as he ſhould be under

a neceſſity of furniſhing a houſe in London, he ſhould want mercery goods to a large amount.

When they came to the mercer's ſhop, Day ſelected as many damaſks, &c. for bed furniture and hangings, as were worth a thouſand pounds. It looks as if Hinchcliffe had now ſome ſuſpicion; for he told him that the ladies were beſt judges of ſuch articles, and aſked if he had not a lady of his acquaintance, whom he could conſult. He readily anſwered that he had, and mentioned a lady Davenport as his relation, ſaying, "ſend "the ſilks to my houſe, and I will take her opi-"nion of them."

Mr. Hinchcliffe ſaid he would ſend them, and permitted him to take with him two pieces of brocade worth above thirty pounds: but deſirous to know more of his cuſtomer before he truſted him with the whole property, he went to counſellor Ward, and found that his daughter was already married to a gentleman of the name of Davenport. Hereupon the mercer went to the houſe of the ſuppoſed Eſquire, but he was gone off with what property he had obtained.

It was likewiſe diſcovered that our adventurer having caſually met, at a coffee-houſe, the Mr. Davenport who had married the daughter of counſellor Ward, had prevailed on him to call him couſin, on the pretence that they muſt be related, becauſe, as he alledged, their coats of arms were the ſame.

After a courſe of fraud Day was taken into cuſtody in the month of May, 1723, on ſuſpicion of his having robbed the mail; but it proved that he was not the man: however, there were ſix indictments brought againſt him for the defrauds.

In his defence he pleaded that his intention was to have paid for the goods he had purchaſed

on

on credit; and he aſſerted that he poſſeſſed an eſtate in the county of Durham, which he had mortgaged for 1200l. but no credit could be given to his allegations; nor even if he had poſſeſſed ſuch an eſtate, would it have appeared that he acted on an honeſt principle.

After a fair trial he was convicted, and ſentenced to ſuffer two years impriſonment in Newgate, to ſtand twice in the pillory, to pay a fine of two hundred pounds, and to give ſecurity for his good behaviour for two years after the term of his impriſonment ſhould be expired.

This fellow was one of thoſe abandoned miſcreants whom modern times have diſtinguiſhed by the name of Swindlers; * and of all men breathing they ſeem to be the moſt deſtitute of principle; they literally "go about ſeeking "whom they may devour." It is aſtoniſhing that tradeſmen ſhould be ſo frequently duped by the artifices of theſe villains; ſince ſcarce a week paſſes in which the news-papers do not give an account of ſome of the tricks by which they impoſe on the unwary.

As it is one profeſſed deſign of this publication to guard innocent people againſt the ſchemes of the artful and deſigning, we would earneſtly recommend it to people in trade, never to give credit to ſtrangers from the ſpeciouſneſs of their appearance, or the plauſibility of their behaviour.

The villain who can defraud a coachmaker out of a carriage, or even raiſe money to hire one of

* *Swindler* is a German word, the meaning of which exactly correſponds with the idea we affix to the character;—that of a man who ſtrives to take in all the world by artifice.

an elegant appearance, has nothing to do but take genteel lodgings, and put an accomplice or two into livery, and his ſcheme uſually ſucceeds. The ſplendid appearance of the ſuppoſed maſter, and the artful puffs of the ſervants, generally ſerve to lull ſuſpicion aſleep.

When enquiry is made into the character of a perſon who is ſuppoſed to be a man of honour and fortune, the enquirer ſhould conſider whether the perſon who gives him this character is deſerving of that of an honeſt man: for theſe artful rogues, when they find any perſon is ſuſpicious of them, have a method of referring to as great rogues as themſelves for a character. The tradeſman, then, who would not be impoſed on, ſhould take characters only from reſpectable people, who will never deceive him, unleſs they have been deceived themſelves.

The being expoſed in the pillory is very inadequate to the puniſhment, much leſs to the cure, of this crime. The wretches themſelves are dead to all ſenſe of ſhame; few perſons ſee their faces ſo perfectly as to recollect them; and when the term of their impriſonment is expired, they put on a gay ſuit of cloaths, and begin to make freſh depredations on the public.

Since the paſſing the act of parliament for making criminals labour on board the ballaſt-lighters, theſe defrauders have been ſent to Woolwich for certain times, proportioned (as the court before whom they are tried may think) to the enormity of their crimes: but being too idle and too wicked to earn their bread in an honeſt manner, it muſt be expected that they will renew their old trade, as ſoon as they obtain their liberty. What ſeems to be wanting to prevent this crime, ſo deſtructive to the honeſt tradeſman, is a law to puniſh

niſh theſe ſwindlers by labour, on board the ballaſt-lighters or otherwiſe, FOR LIFE. This muſt prove effectual. The idle raſcal, who ſeeks to live in ſplendor by preying on the public, would give over trade, if he was certain that perpetual impriſonment, hard fare, and unremitted labour, would be the conſequence of continuing it.

It is even probable that ſuch kind of puniſhment would tend greatly to the prevention of *every* ſpecies of felony; and the compilers of this work humbly ſubmit to the wiſdom of the legiſlature the propriety of making the experiment. If the law ſhould be found inadequate to the propoſed end, it would be eaſy to repeal it: but it ſeems very reaſonable to think that perpetual impriſonment would terrify more than death. The man who does not dread the gallows, would dread to be a ſlave for life.

In the mean time, however, let it be remembered, that a life of vice is a life of perpetual anxiety; and that the readieſt way to be HAPPY is to be VIRTUOUS.

Narrative of the Trial of SARAH PRIDDON, otherwiſe called SALLY SALISBURY, who was convicted of an Aſſault.

ON the 24th of April, 1723, Sarah Priddon was indicted at the Old Bailey, for making a violent aſſault on the honourable J—— F——, Eſq. and ſtabbing him with a knife, in his left breaſt, and giving him a wound of which he long languiſhed, with an intent to kill and murder him.

Mrs.

Mrs. Priddon, or rather Saliſbury, (for that was the name by which ſhe was beſt known) was a woman of the town, who was well acquainted with the gentleman whom ſhe wounded. It appeared on the trial that Mr. F— having gone to the Three Tuns Tavern in Chandos-ſtreet, Covent-Garden, about midnight, Sally followed him thither ſoon afterwards. The drawer, after he had waited on Mr. F—, went to bed; but at two in the morning he was called up, to draw a pint of frontiniac for Mrs. Saliſbury. This he did, and carried it to her, with a French roll, and a knife. The priſoner was now in company and converſation with Mr. F—, and the drawer heard them diſputing about an Opera ticket which he had preſented to her ſiſter; and while they were talking ſhe ſtabbed him; on which he put his hand to his breaſt, and ſaid, "Madam, you "have wounded me."

No ſooner had ſhe committed the fact than ſhe appeared ſincerely to regret what ſhe had done: ſhe ſent for a ſurgeon, who finding it neceſſary to extend the wound, that the blood might flow outwardly, ſhe ſeemed terrified, and calling out, "O Lord! what are you doing?" fainted away.

On her recovery ſhe aſked Mr. F— how he did; to which he anſwered, "Very bad, and "worſe than you imagine." She endeavoured to conſole him in the beſt manner ſhe could, and after ſome time, the parties went away in ſeperate chairs; but not till the wounded gentleman had forgiven her, and ſaluted her, as a token of that forgiveneſs.

The council for the priſoner endeavoured to prove that ſhe had no intention of wounding him with malice *prepenſe*; and that what ſhe did aroſe from

from a ſudden ſtart of paſſion, the conſequence of his having given an Opera ticket to her ſiſter, with a view to ingratiate her affections, and debauch her.

The counſel for the crown ridiculed this idea, and inſinuated that a woman of Mrs. Saliſbury's character could not be ſuppoſed to have any very tender regard to her ſiſter's reputation. They allowed that Mr. F— had readily forgiven her at the time; but inſiſted that this was a proof of the placability of his temper, and no argument in her favour.

They ſaid that if the gentleman had died of the wound, ſhe would have been deemed guilty of murder, as ſhe had not received the leaſt provocation to commit the crime; and that the event made no difference with reſpect to the malignity of her intentions.

The jury having conſidered the circumſtances of the caſe, found her guilty of aſſaulting and wounding Mr. F—; but acquitted her of doing it with an intent to kill and murder him. In conſequence hereof ſhe was ſentenced to pay a fine of one hundred pounds, to be impriſoned for a year, and then to find ſecurity for her good behaviour for two years.

She was tried in May, 1723, but when ſhe had ſuffered about nine months impriſonment, ſhe died in Newgate, and was buried in the churchyard of St. Andrew, Holborn.

The caſe of the unhappy woman who has been the ſubject of this narrative will afford matter for ſerious reflection. She had been acquainted with the gentleman whom ſhe ſtabbed, and there is nothing ungenerous in ſuppoſing that their acquaintance was of the criminal kind.

It

It was inſinuated by the council for the crown that it could not be ſuppoſed that Mrs. Saliſbury had any regard for the reputation of her ſiſter. But why ſo? It is to be preſumed that a woman of any ſenſibility, who had been unhappy enough to forfeit her own character, ſhould become the more anxious to preſerve that of one to whom ſhe was bound by the ties of conſanguinity. It does not follow that, becauſe a woman has failed in the great article of perſonal chaſtity, ſhe muſt therefore be deficient in every other virtue that can adorn the female mind.

Too frequently, indeed, it happens that women in this predicament become dead to all thoſe finer feelings that do honour to their ſex in particular, and to humanity in general. But then what ſhall be ſaid of thoſe men who reduce them to a ſituation ſo calamitous? Will the ſudden impulſe of paſſion be pleaded in mitigation of a crime which, in its conſequences, almoſt always detaches a woman from the company of the virtuous of her own ſex, and renders her, in a great degree, an outcaſt of ſociety?

If there be any truth in the common opinion that women in general are weaker than men; it follows of courſe that the wiſeſt ought to be the moſt virtuous; and that the man who ſeduces a woman, is more criminal in that act, than ſhe is in yielding to the ſeduction: yet ſo ungenerous is the vulgar opinion, that a woman for ever loſes her character in conſequence of an offence which is hardly deemed criminal in a man. Agreeable hereto are the ſentiments of the poet:

——— Man the lawleſs libertine may rove
Free and unqueſtioned through the wilds of love:

But

But woman, ſenſe and nature's eaſy fool,
If poor, weak, woman ſwerve from virtue's rule,
If ſtrongly charm'd, ſhe tempt the flowery way,
And in the ſofter paths of pleaſure ſtray,
Ruin enſues, remorſe, and endleſs ſhame,
And one falſe ſtep entirely damns her fame:
In vain with tears the loſs ſhe may deplore,
In vain look back to what ſhe was before;
She ſets, like ſtars that fall, to riſe no more.

It is no credit to the humanity of the age that this ſhould be the fact; but as it is the fact, it ſhould teach young women to be always on their guard for the protection of their chaſtity; remembering that if that be once loſt, it can never be recovered; that it is a jewel of the higheſt price, and that, in moſt inſtances, the contamination of the mind follows the violation of the perſon, and muſt, of conſequence, produce a long ſeries of wretchedneſs.

Caſe of WILLIAM HAWKSWORTH, who was executed for Murder.

THIS malefactor was a native of Yorkſhire, and born of reputable parents, who gave him ſuch an education as was proper to qualify him for a creditable trade; but being of a diſpoſition too unſettled to think of buſineſs, he enliſted for a ſoldier, in the hope of being promoted in the army.

After he had ſerved ſome time, and found himſelf diſappointed in his expectation of preferment, he made intereſt to obtain his diſcharge,

and then entered into the ſervice of a gentleman, with whom he behaved in a proper manner for a conſiderable time : but not being content with his ſituation, he repaired to London, and again enliſted as a ſoldier, in the foot-guards.

In this ſtation he remained four years, during two of which he was ſervant to the colonel, who entertained a very good opinion of him; till an incident which unexpectedly aroſe, occaſioned the crime for which he ſuffered. Before we relate the particulars, it will be proper to remark that at the period of which we are writing, party diſputes ran very high, and the ſoldiers were frequently the ſubjects of the contempt and deriſion of the populace.

While Hawkſworth was marching, with other ſoldiers, to relieve the guard in St. James's Park, a man named Ranſom, who had a woman in his company, joſtled him, and cried, " What a ſtir " is here about king George's ſoldiers!" Hawkſworth, imagining the woman had incited him to this behaviour, quitted his rank, and gave her a blow on the face. Irritated hereby, Ranſom called him a puppy, and demanded the reaſon of his behaviour to the woman.

The term of reproach enraged Hawkſworth to ſuch a degree, that he knocked the other down with his muſket, and then the ſoldiers marched on to relieve the guard. In the mean time a croud of people gathered round Ranſom, and finding he was much wounded, put him in a chair, and ſent him to a ſurgeon, who examined him, and found his ſkull fractured to ſuch a degree, that there were no hopes of his recovery; and he died in a few hours.

Hereupon a perſon who had been witneſs to what paſſed in the Park, went to the Savoy, and having

having learnt the name of the offender, cauſed Hawkſworth to be taken into cuſtody, and he was committed to Newgate. Being brought to his trial at the following ſeſſions, the colonel whom he had ſerved gave him an excellent character; but the facts were ſo clearly proved, that the jury could not do otherwiſe than convict him, and judgment of death paſſed accordingly.

For ſome time after ſentence he flattered himſelf with the hope of a reprieve; but when the warrant for his execution arrived, he ſeemed to give up all hopes of life, and ſeriouſly prepared himſelf to meet his fate. He ſolemnly averred that Ranſom ſtruck him firſt, and ſaid he did not recollect the circumſtance of leaving his rank to ſtrike the blow that occaſioned the death of the other. He declared that he had no malice againſt the deceaſed, and therefore thought himſelf acquitted in his own mind of the crime of murder.

However, he behaved in a very contrite manner, and received the ſacrament, with ſigns of the ſincereſt devotion. A few minutes before he was executed he made a ſpeech to the ſurrounding multitude, adviſing them to keep a ſtrict guard over their paſſions: he lamented the ſituation of the common ſoldiers, who are conſidered as cowards if they do not reſent an injury, and if they do, are liable to endure legal puniſhment for the conſequences that may ariſe from ſuch reſentment. However, he adviſed his brethren of the army to ſubmit with patience to the indignities that might be offered, and truſt to the goodneſs of God to recompence their ſufferings.

He was executed at Tyburn on the 17th of June, 1723, at the age of 27 years.

Though nothing can juſtify the crime of which this man was guilty, yet an uſeful leſſon may be learnt from his fate. The ſituation of our common ſoldiers is ſufficiently lamentable, and no perſon ſhould ſeek to make their lives more calamitous by inſult. The poor fellow who does duty by night and by day; who is ſubject to all the ſtrictneſs of military diſcipline, and liable at any time to be called forth, the mark of a bullet; and all this for leſs than is ſufficient for his ſupport, even on the coarſeſt food, is certainly an object of our commiſeration. We ſhould therefore pity the diſtreſſed, and not ſeek to add misfortune to the miſerable.

Although the crime for which Hawkſworth ſuffered is ſuch as ought not to be pardoned; yet the eye of humanity will drop a tear for the fate of a man who thought himſelf inſtigated to ſtrike the fatal blow, little conſidering, at that moment, that it would have proved fatal. Hence let us learn to guard againſt the firſt impulſe of paſſion; to reflect that reaſon was given us for the moderation of our paſſions; and that the higher conſiderations of religion ought to be a perpetual reſtraint on thoſe violent emotions of the mind which, in numerous inſtances beſide the preſent, have led to deſtruction. That man is guilty of an egregious folly, as well as an enormous crime, who will permit the taunting words or aggravating actions of another, to tempt him to the commiſſion of murder. Then let us be perpetually on our guard, remembering that

Hard names at firſt, and threat'ning words,
That are but noiſy breath,
May grow to clubs and naked ſwords,
To murder and to death.

Par-

Particulars reſpecting THOMAS ATHOE, Senior, and THOMAS ATHOE, Junior, who were hanged for Murder.

THE crime for which theſe men were tried was committed in Pembrokeſhire; but they were removed by a writ of habeas-corpus to Hereford, where, on the 19th of March, 1723, they were indicted for the murder of George Merchant, by beating and kicking him on the head, face, breaſt, &c. on the 23d of November, 1722, and thereby giving him ſeveral mortal wounds and bruiſes, of which he died the ſame day.

Athoe the elder was a native of Carew in Pembrokeſhire, where he rented above a hundred pounds per annum, and had lived in ſuch a reſpectable way, that in the year 1721 he was choſen mayor of Tenby, and his ſon a bailiff of the ſame corporation; though they did not live in this place, but at Mannerbeer, two miles diſtant from it.

George Merchant, who was murdered, and his brother Thomas, were nephews, by the mother's ſide, to the elder Athoe, their father having married his ſiſter.

On the 23d of November, 1722, a fair was held at Tenby, where the priſoners went to ſell cattle, and there met with the deceaſed and his brother Thomas Merchant; and a quarrel aroſe between the younger Athoe and George Merchant, on an old grudge reſpecting their right to part of an eſtate; when a battle enſued, in which the deceaſed had the advantage, and beat young Athoe. The elder Athoe taking the advice of an attorney on what had paſſed, he would have perſuaded him to bring an action; to which he replied,

plied, " No, no, we won't take the law, but " we'll pay them in their own coin."

Late in the evening, after the fair was ended, the deceaſed and his brother left the town; but the Athoes going to the inn, enquired of the oſtler which way they were gone. He gave them the beſt information in his power, on which they immediately mounted and followed them. The brothers ſtopped on the road, at a place called Holloway's water, to let their horſes drink. In the mean time they heard the footſteps of other horſes behind them, and turning about, ſaw two men riding at a ſmall diſtance. It was too dark for them to know the parties, but they preſently heard the voice of old Athoe.

Knowing that he had ſworn revenge, and dreading the conſequence that would probably enſue, they endeavoured to conceal themſelves behind a bridge, but they were diſcovered by the ſplaſhing their horſes feet made in the water. The Athoes riding up with large ſticks, the younger ſaid to George Merchant, " I owe thee a paſs, " and now thou ſhalt have it;" and immediately knocked him off his horſe.

In the interim old Athoe attacked Thomas Merchant, and beat him likewiſe from his horſe, calling out at the ſame time, " Kill the dogs! " kill the dogs!" The brothers begged hard for their lives; but they pleaded to thoſe who had no idea of pity. The elder Athoe ſeized Thomas Merchant in the tendereſt part, and ſqueezed him in ſo violent a manner, that human nature could not long have ſuſtained the pain; while the younger Athoe treated George Merchant in a ſimilar way, and carried his revenge to ſuch a length, that it is not poſſible to relate the horrid deed with decency; and when he had compleated his

his execrable purpoſe, he called out to his father, ſaying, " Now I have done George Merchant's " buſineſs."

A great effuſion of blood was the conſequence of his barbarity; but it appears that his ſavage revenge was not yet glutted; for ſeizing the deceaſed by the noſe with his teeth, he bit it off, and then ſtrangled him, by tying a handkerchief tight round his neck.

This being done, the murderers quitted the ſpot; but ſome perſons coming by, took the Merchants to an adjacent houſe, and ſent for a ſurgeon, who dreſſed the wounds of Thomas, but found that George was dead: and the ſurgeon declared that the blows he received were ſufficient to have killed ſix or ſeven men; for he had two bruiſes on his breaſt, three large ones on his head, and twenty-two on his back.

The elder Athoe was taken into cuſtody on the following day, but the ſon had fled to Ireland: however, thoſe who had been concerned in favouring his eſcape, were glad to uſe their endeavours to get him back again.

On the trial the principal evidence againſt them was the ſurviving brother; who was even then ſo weak as to be indulged to ſit down while he gave his evidence: but the jury, though ſatisfied of the commiſſion of the murder, entertained a doubt whether the priſoners could be legally tried in any county but that in which the crime was committed; on which they brought in a ſpecial verdict; whereupon the caſe was referred to the determination of the twelve judges; and the priſoners being brought up to London were committed to the King's-Bench Priſon, where they remained till the 22d of June, 1723, and were then taken to the court of King's-Bench in Weſt-

minſter-Hall; when a motion being made by council in arreſt of judgment, the court directed that an act of the 33d of Henry the 8th ſhould be read, in which is a clauſe, ordaining that "All murders and robberies committed in, on, "or about the borders of Wales, ſhall be triable "in any county in England, where the criminal "ſhall be taken; and that the court of King's-"Bench ſhall have power to remove by writ of "habeas-corpus, any priſoner confined in Wales, "to the next county in England to be tried."

In conſequence hereof the court proceeded to give judgment, and the priſoners were remanded to the King's-Bench-Priſon.

Between this and the time of their execution they were viſited by Mr. Dyche, the chaplain of the priſon, and by ſeveral other divines. They continued to flatter themſelves with the hope of life, till the warrant came down for their execution; and endeavoured to extenuate their crime by a variety of frivolous pretences reſpecting diſputes between them and the deceaſed.

On the 28th of June they received the ſacrament with great devotion, and did the ſame again on the morning of their execution. Their behaviour at the place of death may not be improperly given nearly in the words of the miniſter who attended them. "On Friday the 5th of "July, 1723, about eleven o'clock in the morn-"ing, they were conveyed in a cart to the place "of execution. When they came to the fatal "tree, they behaved themſelves in a very de-"cent manner, embracing each other with the "utmoſt tenderneſs and affection; and indeed "the ſon's hiding his face, bedewed with tears, "in his father's boſom, was, notwithſtanding

"the

" the barbarous action they had committed, a " very moving ſpectacle."

" They begged of all good people to take " warning by their ignominious death; and were " turned off, crying Lord have mercy upon us! " Chriſt have mercy upon us! The bodies were " brought from the place of execution in two " hearſes, to the Falcon Inn, in Southwark, in " order to be buried in St. George's Church-" Yard."

They were executed at a place called St. Thomas's Watering, a little beyond Kent-ſtreet in Surry, the father being fifty-eight years old, and the ſon within one day of twenty four, at the time of their deaths.

We ſhall ſeldom hear of a murder ſo barbarous, ſo deliberate, ſo unprovoked as this in queſtion. Little, ſurely, need be ſaid to deter any of our readers from the ſlighteſt idea of being guilty of a crime of ſo atrocious a nature: nor need we add any thing to our former remarks on ſo heinous an offence as that of embrueing our hands in the blood of our fellow-creatures. Be it ſufficient to remark that there is a juſt God who judgeth the earth, and that all our moſt ſecret actions are open to his ſight. From his view our moſt careful precautions cannot ſcreen, nor can the darkneſs of night cover us. Let us then learn ſo to conduct ourſelves, as not to bluſh to ſtand in the preſence of our God! Happy the man who, fortified by religious conſiderations, can arrive at this degree of Chriſtian perfection!

Singular caſe of Captain JOHN MASSEY, who was hanged for Piracy.

THIS unhappy man, whoſe misfortunes ſeem to claim ſingular compaſſion, was the ſon of a gentleman of fortune in the country, who gave him a genteel education; but the diſpoſition of the young man not being ſufficiently ſolid to admit his living quietly at home, his father procured him a commiſſion in the army, and he ſerved with great applauſe as a lieutenant under the command of the Duke of Marlborough, during the wars in Flanders, in the reign of queen Anne.

On his return to England he conducted himſelf for ſome time with great decency; but at length became acquainted with a woman of bad character, to whom he was ſo much attached that he would undoubtedly have married her, if his father, who got intelligence of the affair, had not happily broke off the connection.

Not long after this he went with his regiment to Ireland, where he lived for ſome time in a courſe of continued debauchery; but at length he got appointed to the rank of lieutenant and engineer to the Royal African Company, and ſailed in one of their ſhips to direct the building a fort. The ſhip being ill-ſupplied with proviſions, and thoſe of the worſt kind, the ſufferings of the crew were inexpreſſibly great: every officer on board died except Maſſey, and many of the ſoldiers likewiſe fell a ſacrifice to the ſcandalous neglect.

Thoſe who lived to get on ſhore drank ſo greedily of the freſh water, that they were thrown into fluxes, which deſtroyed them in the moſt rapid man-

manner; till at length only captain Maſſey and a very few of his people were left alive: and theſe, being totally unable to build a fort, and ſeeing no proſpect of relief, began to abandon themſelves to deſpair: but at this time a veſſel happening to come near the ſhore, they made ſignals of diſtreſs, on which a boat was ſent off to their relief.

They were no ſooner on board than they found the veſſel was a pirate; and, diſtreſſed as they had been, too haſtily engaged in their lawleſs plan, rather than run the hazard of periſhing on ſhore. Sailing from hence they took ſeveral prizes; and though the perſons made priſoners were not uſed with cruelty, Mr. Maſſey had ſo true a ſenſe of the illegality of the proceedings in which he was concerned, that his mind was perpetually tormented with the idea of the fatal conſequences that might enſue.

At length the ſhip reached Jamaica, when Mr. Maſſey ſeized the firſt opportunity of deſerting; and repairing to the governor, he gave ſuch information, that the crew of the pirate veſſel was taken into cuſtody, convicted and hanged. Maſſey might have been provided for by the governor, who treated him with ſingular reſpect, on account of his ſervices to the public; but he declined his generous offers, through an anxiety to viſit his native country.

On his ſailing for England the governor gave him recommendatory letters to the lords of the Admiralty; but, aſtoniſhing as it may ſeem, inſtead of being careſſed, he was taken into cuſtody, and committed till a ſeſſions of Admiralty was held for his trial, when he pleaded guilty, and received ſentence of death.

As his caſe was remarkable, the public enter-

tained no doubt but that he would have been pardoned: but a warrant was ſent for his execution, and he made the moſt ſolemn preparation for his approaching fate.

Two clergymen attended him at the place of execution, where he freely acknowledged his ſins in general, was remarkable fervent in his devotions, and ſeemed perfectly reſigned to his fatal deſtiny.—He ſuffered at Execution-dock, on the 26th of July 1723.

Myſterious are the ways of providence! To the view of ſhort ſighted mortals it will appear that this man ought not to have ſuffered: but heaven thought otherwiſe; and "ſhall not the judge of all the earth do right?"

It ſeems aſtoniſhing that Mr. Maſſey ſhould plead guilty at his trial, when his joining the pirates was evidently an act of neceſſity, not of choice; and when his ſubſequent conduct at Jamaica proves that he took the earlieſt opportunity to abandon his late companions, and bring them to juſtice: a conduct by which he ſeems to have merited the thanks of his country, rather than the vengeance of the laws.

It is almoſt impoſſible to quit this ſubject, on which a volume might be written, without once more remarking on the ſavage inhumanity of that accurſed traffic to Africa, the ſlave trade; a trade that is born in avarice, and nurſed in blood! The Engliſh nation ought to give up its boaſted claim to humanity, till this trade be aboliſhed; and we ſhould bluſh at the idea of puniſhing a pirate, while we openly permit a traffic that counteracts all the laws of benevolence. Shame on the people! Shame on the legiſlators! that can longer permit the continuance of a practice ſo much more than helliſh:—a practice which fiends would

bluſh

bluſh to think of: but the day of retribution may be nearer than we imagine: the *preſent* ſtate * of Great Britain bears not the moſt favourable aſpect; and thoſe who are dead to all feeling for the ſufferings of others, may perhaps be alive to their own —"*Vengeance* is mine, and I will *repay* it ſaith the "Lord."

Particulars reſpecting PHILIP ROCHE, who was hanged for Piracy.

THIS atrocious malefactor was a native of Ireland, and being brought up to a ſeafaring life, ſerved for a conſiderable time on board ſome coaſting veſſels, and then ſailed to Barbadoes on board a Weſt-Indiaman; and here he endeavoured to procure the place of clerk to a factor; but failing in this, he went again to ſea, and was advanced to the ſtation of a firſt mate.

He now became acquainted with a fiſherman named Neale, who hinted to him that large ſums of money might be acquired by inſuring ſhips, and then cauſing them to be ſunk, to defraud the inſurers.

Roche was wicked enough to liſten to this horrid tale, and becoming acquainted with a gentleman who had a ſhip bound to Cape-Breton, he got a ſtation on board, next in command to the captain, who having an high opinion of him, truſted the ſhip to his management, directing the ſeamen to obey his commands.

If Roche had entertained any idea of ſinking the ſhip, he ſeemed now to have abandoned it: but he had brought on board with him five Iriſhmen

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* This was written on the 2d of June 1778.

men who were concerned in the ſhocking tragedy that enſued.

When they had been only a few days at ſea, the plan was executed as follows. One night, when the captain and moſt of the crew were aſleep, Roche gave orders to two of the ſeamen to furl the ſails; which being immediately done, the poor fellows no ſooner deſcended to the deck, than Roche and his helliſh aſſociates murdered them, and threw them overboard. At this inſtant a man and a boy at the yard-arm, obſerving what paſt, and dreading a ſimilar fate, hurried toward the topmaſt-head, when one of the Iriſhmen, named Cullen, followed them, and ſeizing the boy, threw him into the ſea. The man, thinking to effect at leaſt a preſent eſcape, deſcended to the main deck, where Roche inſtantly ſeized, and murdered him, and then threw him overboard.

The noiſe occaſioned by theſe tranſactions alarming the ſailors below, they hurried up with all poſſible expedition; but they were ſeverally ſeized and murdered as faſt as they came on deck, and being firſt knocked on the head, were thrown into the ſea. At length the maſter and mate came on the quarter deck, when Roche and his villainous companions ſeized them, and tying them back to back, committed them to the mercileſs waves.

Theſe execrable murders being perpetrated, the murderers ranſacked the cheſts of the deceaſed, and then ſat down to regale themſelves with liquor; and while the profligate crew were carouſing, they determined to commence pirates, and that Roche ſhould be the captain, as the reward of his ſuperior villainy.

They

They had intended to have ſailed up the gulph of St. Lawrence; but as they were within a few days ſail of the Britiſh channel when the bloody tragedy was acted, and finding themſelves ſhort of proviſions, they put into Portſmouth, and giving the veſſel a fictitious name, they painted her afreſh, and then ſailed for Rotterdam. At this city they diſpoſed of their cargo, and took in a freſh one. Here they were unknown; and an Engliſh gentleman, named Anneſley, ſhipped conſiderable property on board, and took his paſſage with them for the port of London: but the villains threw this unfortunate gentleman overboard, after they had been only one day at ſea.

When the ſhip arrived in the river Thames Mr. Anneſley's friends made enquiry after him, in conſequence of his having ſent letters to England, deſcribing the ſhip in which he propoſed to embark; but Roche denied having any knowledge of the gentleman, and even diſclaimed his own name.

Notwithſtanding his confident aſſertions it was rightly preſumed who he was, and a letter which he ſent to his wife being ſtopped, he was taken into cuſtody. Being carried before the ſecretary of ſtate for examination, he averred that he was not Philip Roche; and ſaid that he knew no perſon of that name. Hereupon the intercepted letter was ſhewn him, on which he inſtantly confeſſed his crimes, and was immediately committed to take his trial at the next Admiralty ſeſſions.

It was intimated to Roche that he might expect a pardon, if he would impeach any three perſons who were more culpable than himſelf, ſo that they might be proſecuted to conviction: but not being able to do this, he was brought to his trial,

trial, and being found guilty, judgment of death was awarded againſt him.

After conviction he profeſſed to be of the Roman Catholic faith, but was certainly no bigot to that religion, ſince he attended the devotions according to the Proteſtant form. He was hanged at Execution Dock on the 5th of Auguſt 1723, but was ſo ill at the time that he could not make any public declaration of his abhorrence of the crime for which he ſuffered.

It is impoſſible to read this ſhocking narrative without execrating the very memory of the wretches whoſe crimes gave riſe to it. Hiſtory has not furniſhed us with any account of what became of the wicked accomplices of Roche; but there can be little doubt of their having dragged on a miſerable exiſtence, if they did not end their lives at the gallows.

The mind of the guilty muſt be perpetually racked with torments; and the murderer who is permitted to live does but live in wretchedneſs and deſpair. His days muſt be filled with anxiety, and his nights with torture.

From the fate of the miſerable ſubject of this narrative let our ſailors be taught that an honeſt purſuit of the duties of their ſtation is more likely to enſure happineſs to them, than the poſſeſſion of any ſum of money unlawfully obtained. Our brave tars are not, from their ſituation in life, much accuſtomed to the attendance on religious duties: but it can coſt them no trouble to recollect that to "do juſtice and love mercy" is equally the character of the brave man and the chriſtian!

The Caſes of WILLIAM DUCE, and JAMES BUTLER, who were hanged for Robbery.

DUCE was a native of Woolverhampton, and by trade a buckle-maker, which he followed ſome time in London; but being impriſoned in Newgate for debt, he there made connections which greatly tended to the corruption of his manners.

He was no ſooner at large than he commenced foot-pad, and, in company with another man, robbed a gentleman in Chelſea Fields of four guineas: after this he connected himſelf with John Dyer, and James Butler, in concert with whom he committed a variety of robberies. Their plan was to go out together, but one only to attack the party intended to be robbed; but to give a ſignal for his accomplices to come up, if any reſiſtance ſhould be made.

After committing a variety of robberies in the neighbourhood of London, they joined in a ſcheme with four other villains to rob lady Chudleigh, between Hyde-Park-Corner and Kenſington: but her ladyſhip's footman ſhot one of the gang, named Rice, through the head, which prevented the intended depredation.

Their robberies had now been ſo numerous, that the neighbourhood of London became unſafe for them; wherefore they went on the Portſmouth-road, where they committed a variety of robberies, and even proceeded to the perpetration of murder, with a view to prevent detection.

Meeting Mr. Bunch, a farmer, near a wood on the road ſide, they robbed him of his money, and then dragging him into the wood, they ſtripped

him, and Duce firing at him with a piſtol the ball lodged in his mouth.

They now imagined the man was dead, and were about to depart, when Mr. Bunch turning, Butler loaded another piſtol, in order to diſpatch him; on which he begged that they would yet ſpare his life: but finding that they entertained no ſentiments of compaſſion, he exerted all his ſtrength, and ſpringing on his legs, ran off, and alarming the inhabitants of an adjacent village, immediate purſuit was made after the villains, all of whom were apprehended except Duce, who eſcaped, and got to London.

Darker, Wade, and Meads, three of the gang, were hanged at Wincheſter: but Butler was ſent to take his trial at the Old Bailey, for robberies committed in the county of Middleſex.

JAMES BUTLER was the ſon of reputable parents of the pariſh of St. Ann, Soho, and apprenticed to a ſilverſmith; but being of an ungovernable diſpoſition, his parents were obliged to ſend him to ſea. After making ſeveral voyages, as an apprentice to the captain, he ran from the ſhip at Boſton in New-England, and went to New-York, where he entered on board another ſhip, from which he likewiſe ran away, and embarked in a third veſſel, bound to Martinico. This he alſo quitted, on a diſpute with the captain, and then ſailed to Jamaica, where he was impreſſed into the royal navy, and ſerved under the celebrated admiral Vernon.

On his return to England he married a girl of Wapping, and having ſoon ſpent the little money he brought home with him, he engaged with the gang we have mentioned, with whom he was likewiſe concerned in ſeveral other robberies.

Theſe

Theſe appear to have been very deſperate villains. On the road to Graveſend they ſtopped four gentlemen, who refuſing to be robbed, Meads (one of theſe hanged at Wincheſter,) ſhot a ſervant who attended them, in the breaſt, ſo that he died in a few days. Diſappointed of their booty in this attempt, their paſſions were ſo irritated that, meeting a gentleman on horſeback, they fired, and wounded him in the head and breaſt, and the next day he expired.

They committed other robberies attended with circumſtances of cruelty; but it will be now proper to mention thoſe for which they ſuffered. Butler having been acquitted at the Old Bailey, of the crime for which he was tranſmitted from Wincheſter, he and Duce and Dyer immediately renewed their depredations on the road. Meeting Mr. Holmes near Buckingham-houſe, they robbed him of his money, hat, and handkerchief, which laid the foundation of one of the indictments againſt them.

On the following evening they ſtopped a hackney coachman near Hampſtead, and robbed him of nine ſhillings, after the coachman had told them that the words, "ſtand and deliver," were ſufficient to hang a man. Jonathan Wild being informed of theſe robberies, cauſed the offenders to be apprehended, at a houſe kept by Duce's ſiſter.

Dyer being admitted an evidence, Duce and Butler were brought to their trial, when the latter pleaded guilty to both the indictments; and the former, after ſpending ſome time in denying the robberies, and arraigning the conduct of Jonathan Wild, was found guilty, and both of them received ſentence of death.

After conviction their behaviour was more reſigned and devout than could have been expected from men whoſe repeated crimes might be ſuppoſed to have hardened their hearts; but death appeared to them in all its horrors. Butler was a Roman Catholic, and Duce a Proteſtant. The latter was urged by the Ordinary to diſcover the names of ſome of his old accomplices: but this he refuſed to do, becauſe they had left their practices, and lived honeſt lives.

A few moments before they were launched into eternity, Butler declared that the circumſtances of cruelty with which their crimes had been attended gave him more pain than the thoughts of death: and Duce acknowledged the enormity of his offences, and begged the forgiveneſs of all whom he had injured.

They were hanged at Tyburn, on the 14th of Auguſt, 1723.

A few ſhort reflections naturally occur on the fate of theſe men. Butler, having been diſobedient when a boy, was ſent to ſea in order to reclaim him. This is a common practice; but we cannot ſee how it is calculated to anſwer the deſigned end: what doctrines of morality or religion can a boy be expected to learn amidſt the curſes and execrations of ſailors? But we believe one great reaſon why young offenders are ſent to ſea is, that they may be out of the way of diſgracing their parents and relations by their preſence.

The cruelties theſe malefactors perpetrated, will hand down their names with infamy to poſterity; and ought to impreſs on the minds of young people the horrid crime of robbery, which may naturally lead to the greater crime of murder.

der. By truth in all our words, and juſtice and mercy in our actions, we ſhall moſt effectually ſecure our happineſs in this world; and by the aid of religion, and the mercy of God, may become ſucceſsful candidates for eternal bliſs in that which is to come!

The Life and Tranſactions of HUMPHREY ANGIER, who was hanged for Robbery.

THIS offender was a native of Ireland, and born near Dublin; but his parents removing to Corke, put him apprentice to a cooper in that city. He had not been long in this ſtation before his maſter deſired to get rid of him, on account of his untoward diſpoſition. Being diſcharged from his ſervice, he lived the life of a vagabond for two years, and his father apprehending that he would come to a fatal end, brought him to England in the eighteenth year of his age.

Still, however, he continued his diſſipated courſe of life, till having got conſiderably in debt, he enliſted for a ſoldier, to avoid being lodged in a priſon. As this happened in the year 1715, he was ſent to Scotland to oppoſe the rebels; but robbing a farmer in that country, he was puniſhed by receiving 500 laſhes, in conſequence of the ſentence of a court martial.

The rebellion being ended, Angier came to London, and obtained his diſcharge. Here he became acquainted with William Duce, mentioned in the preceding article, and married a ſiſter of Duce at an alehouſe in the verge of the Fleet.

After

After this he enliſted for a ſoldier, and the regiment being ordered to Vigo, he took his wife with him; and when the greater part of the Spaniards had abandoned the place, Angier obtained a conſiderable ſum by plunder. On his return to England he became acquainted with Butler's aſſociates, and was concerned with them in ſeveral of their lawleſs depredations, but refuſed to have any ſhare in acts of barbarity.

Angier now kept a houſe of ill fame, which was reſorted to by the other thieves; and one night after they had been out on one of their exploits, one Meads, (whoſe name we have before recorded,) told the following horrid tale: "We "have been out; and the beſt fun of all was an "engagement with a ſmock-faced ſhoemaker, "whom we met on the Kentiſh-road. We aſk-"ed him how far he was going, and he ſaid he "was juſt married, and going home to ſee his "relations. After a little more diſcourſe, we "perſuaded him to turn a little out of the road "to look for a bird's-neſt; but, as ſoon as we "had got him a little out of the road, we bound "and gagged him, after which we robbed him, "and were going away; but I being in a merry "humour, and wanting to have a little diverſion, "turned about with my piſtol, and ſhot him "through the head." Bad as Angier was in other reſpects, he was ſhocked at this ſtory, told his companions that there was no courage in cruelty, and from that time refuſed to drink with any of them.

After this Angier kept a houſe of ill fame near Charing-Croſs, letting lodgings to thieves, and receiving ſtolen goods. While in this way of life he went to ſee an execution at Tyburn, and did not return till four o'clock the next morning; and

and in his abſence an incident aroſe which was attended with troubleſome conſequences. A Dutch woman meeting with a gentleman in the ſtreet, conducted him to Angier's houſe, where he drank ſo freely that he fell aſleep, when the woman robbed him of his watch and money, and made her eſcape. The gentleman awaking when Angier returned, charged him with the robbery, in conſequence of which he was committed to priſon, but ſoon afterwards diſcharged, the grand jury not finding the bill againſt him.

Not long after he got free of this trouble, his wife was indicted for robbing a gentleman of his watch and a guinea, but had the good fortune to be acquitted in defect of evidence.

The following incident happened about the ſame time. A woman named Turner had drank ſo much at Angier's houſe that he conducted her up to bed; but while he was in the room with her, his wife entered like a fury, and demanding how Turner could preſume to keep company with her huſband, attacked and beat the woman. William Duce being in the houſe, went up to interfere; but the diſturbance was by this time ſo great, that it was neceſſary to ſend for a conſtable.

The officer no ſooner arrived, than Mrs. Turner charged Angier and his wife with robbing her; on which they were taken into cuſtody and committed: but when they were brought to trial, they were acquitted, as there was no proof of any robbery, to the ſatisfaction of the jury.

Dyer, who was evidence againſt Duce and Butler, as mentioned in the preceding narrative, lived at this time with Angier as a waiter; and the maſter and man uſed occaſionally to commit footpad robberies together; for which they were

ſeveral times apprehended, and tried at the Old Bailey; but acquitted becauſe the proſecutors could not ſwear to their perſons.

Angier's character now grew ſo notorious, that no perſon of common decency would be ſeen in his houſe; and the expences attending his repeated proſecutions were ſo great, that from theſe united cauſes he was compelled to decline buſineſs.

After this, however, he kept a gin-ſhop in Short's-Gardens, Drury-Lane; and this houſe was frequented by company of the ſame kind as thoſe he had formerly entertained, and among the reſt parſon Lindſey, who has been heretofore mentioned in this work. Lindſey having prevailed on a gentleman to go to this houſe, made him drunk, and then robbed him of ſeveral valuable articles; but procuring himſelf to be admitted an evidence, charged Angier and his wife with the robbery: but they had again the good fortune to eſcape, becauſe the character of Lindſey was by this time ſo infamous, that the court and jury paid no regard to any thing that he ſaid.

Not long after this Mrs. Angier was tranſported for picking a gentleman's pocket, and her huſband was convicted on two capital indictments; the one for robbing Mr. Lewin, the city marſhall, near Hornſey, of ten guineas and ſome ſilver, and the other for robbing a waggoner near Knightſbridge. On both theſe trials Dyer, who was concerned in the robberies, was admitted an evidence againſt Angier.

After conviction Angier was viſited by numbers of perſons, whoſe pockets had been picked of valuable articles, in the hope of getting ſome intelligence of the property they had loſt; but he

he told them he was never guilty of ſuch mean actions as picking of pockets; and he ſaid that none of his aſſociates ever followed this practice, but one Hugh Kelly, who was tranſported for robbing a woman of a ſhroud, which ſhe was carrying home, to cover her deceaſed huſband.

Angier's father died of a broken heart ſoon after he heard of his commitment. While under ſentence of death he behaved with great penitence: confeſſed his crimes; ſaid he had never been happy in the commiſſion of them; and expreſſed a willingneſs to die, as a compenſation for his ſins.

He was executed at Tyburn on the 9th of September, 1723, and juſt before he was turned off, adviſed young people to be obedient to their parents, as a failure in that important duty was the firſt ſtep to his deſtruction.

Angier had a longer courſe of wickedneſs than falls to the lot of moſt offenders; but he was at length cut off, and fell a ſacrifice to the rigour of the laws. We find he confeſſed he had never been happy; nor indeed can any criminal ever expect to be ſo: thoſe who fail in their duty entail wretchedneſs on themſelves. The only way to be happy is to be virtuous: while guilt inevitably leads to miſery and ſhame. No perſon, then, in his ſenſes, can heſitate which path to chuſe. "The wiſe (ſays Solomon) ſhall inherit "glory, but ſhame ſhall be the promotion of "fools."

Account of RICHARD PARVIN, EDWARD ELLIOT, ROBERT KINGSHELL, HENRY MARSHALL, EDWARD PINK, JOHN PINK, and JAMES ANSEL, commonly called the *Waltham Blacks*, who were hanged for Murder.

THE actions of theſe offenders became ſo much the object of public notice, that it was deemed proper to frame a particular act of parliament in order to bring them to juſtice. Having blacked their faces they went in the day-time, to the Parks of the nobility and gentry, whence they repeatedly ſtole deer, and at length murdered the biſhop of Wincheſter's keeper on Waltham-Chace; and from the name of the place, and their blacking their faces, they obtained the name of the *Waltham Blacks*.

The following is the ſubſtance of the act of parliament on which they were convicted: "Any "perſon appearing in any foreſt, chace, park, "&c. or in any high road, open heath, com-"mon, or down, with offenſive weapons, and "having his face blacked, or otherwiſe diſguiſed, "or unlawfully and wilfully hunting, wounding, "killing, or ſtealing any red or fallow deer, or "unlawfully robbing any warren, &c. or ſteal-"ing any fiſh out of any river or pond, or (whe-"ther armed and diſguiſed or not) breaking "down the head or mound of any fiſh-pond, "whereby the fiſh may be loſt or deſtroyed; or "unlawfully, and maliciouſly killing, maiming, "or wounding any cattle, or cutting down, or "otherwiſe deſtroying any trees planted in any "avenue, or growing in any garden, orchard, "or plantation, for ornament, ſhelter, or profit; "or ſetting fire to any houſe, barn, or outhouſe,

"hovel,

" hovel, cock, mow, or ſtack of corn, ſtraw, " hay, or wood; or maliciouſly ſhooting at any " perſon, in any dwelling-houſe or other place; " or knowingly ſending any letter without any " name, or ſigned with a fictitious name, demand- " ing money, veniſon, or other valuable thing, " or forcibly reſcuing any perſon, being in cuſ- " tody for any of the offences before-mentioned, " or procuring any perſon by gift, or promiſe of " money, or other reward, to join in any ſuch " unlawful act, or concealing or ſuccouring ſuch " offenders, when by order of council, &c. re- " quired to ſurrender,—ſhall ſuffer death."

The offence of deer-ſtealing was formerly only a miſdemeanor at common law; but the act of parliament above-mentioned has been rendered perpetual by a ſubſequent ſtatute: it therefore behoves people to be cautious that they do not endanger their lives, while they think they are committing what they may deem an inferior offence. We will now give ſuch particulars as we have been able to obtain reſpecting the malefactors in queſtion.

Richard Parvin was heretofore the maſter of a public-houſe in Portſmouth, which he had kept with reputation for a conſiderable time, till he was imprudent enough to engage with the gang of ruffians who practiſed the robbing noblemens and gentlemens parks through the country. The reader is already apprized that it was the cuſtom of theſe fellows to go diſguiſed. Now a ſervant-maid of Parvin's having left his houſe during his abſence, had repaired to an alehouſe in the country; and Parvin calling there on his return from one of his diſhoneſt expeditions, the girl diſcovered him; in conſequence of which he was

committed to Wincheſter Goal, by the mayor of Portſmouth, till his removal to London for trial.

EDWARD ELLIOT was an apprentice to a taylor at Guildford, and was very young when he engaged with the gang, whoſe orders he implicitly obeyed, till the following circumſtance occaſioned his leaving them. Having met with two countrymen who refuſed to enter into the ſociety, they dug holes in the ground, and placed the unhappy men in them, up to their chins, and had they not been relieved by perſons who accidentally ſaw them, they muſt have periſhed. Shocked by this deed, Elliot left them, and for ſome time ſerved a lady as a footman; but on the day the keeper was murdered he caſually met them in the fields, and, on their promiſe that no harm ſhould attend him, he unhappily conſented to bear them company.

Having provided themſelves with piſtols, and blacked their faces with gunpowder, they proceeded to their lawleſs depredations; and while the reſt of the gang were killing of deer, Elliot went in ſearch of a fawn; but while he was looking for it, the keeper and his aſſiſtants came up, and took him into cuſtody. His aſſociates were near enough to ſee what happened; and immediately coming to his aſſiſtance, a violent affray enſued, in which the keeper was ſhot by Henry Marſhall, ſo that he died on the ſpot, and Elliot made his eſcape; but he was ſoon afterwards taken into cuſtody, and lodged in the goal of Guildford.

ROBERT KINGSHELL, who was a native of Farnham in Surry, was placed by his parents with a ſhoemaker; but being too idle to follow his profeſſion, he was guilty of many acts of irregularity, before

before he aſſociated himſelf with the Waltham Blacks, with whom he afterwards ſuffered. While he was in bed on the night preceding the fatal murder, one of the gang awaked him, by knocking at his window; on which he aroſe, and went with him to join the reſt of the deer-ſtealers.

HENRY MARSHALL was a man diſtinguiſhed for his ſtrength and agility: we have no account of the place of his birth, or the manner of his education; but it is reaſonable to think that the latter was of the inferior kind, ſince he appears to have been chiefly diſtinguiſhed by his ſkill in the vulgar ſcience of bruiſing. He was once the occaſion of apprehending a highwayman, who had robbed a coach, by giving him a ſingle blow which broke his arm. He ſeems to have been one of the moſt daring of the Waltham Blacks, and was the man who ſhot the chace-keeper, as above-mentioned.

EDWARD PINK and JOHN PINK were brothers, who ſpent the former part of their lives as carters, at Portſmouth, and had maintained the character of honeſt men till they became weak enough to join the deſperate gang of deer-ſtealers.

It now remains to ſpeak only of JAMES ANSEL, who likewiſe lived at Portſmouth. We are not informed in what way he had originally ſupported himſelf; but for ſome years before he joined the deſperate gang above-mentioned he was a highwayman; and had been concerned with the Waltham Blacks about two years before the commiſſion of the murder which coſt them their lives.

By a vigilant exertion of the civil power, all the above-mentioned offenders were taken into cuſtody, and it being thought prudent to bring them to trial in London, they were removed thither

ther under a ſtrong guard, and lodged in Newgate.

On the 13th of November, 1723, they were brought to their trial in the court of King's Bench, and being convicted on the cleareſt evidence, were found guilty, and ſentenced to die; and it was immediately ordered that they ſhould ſuffer on the fourth of the next month. One circumſtance was very remarkable on this occaſion:—the judge had no ſooner pronounced the ſentence, than Henry Marſhall, the man who had ſhot the keeper, was immediately deprived of the uſe of his tongue; nor did he recover his ſpeech till the day before his death.

After paſſing the ſolemn ſentence the convicts behaved in a manner equally devout and reſigned, were regular in their devotions, and prepared themſelves for eternity with every mark of unfeigned contrition. They received the ſacrament before they left Newgate, acknowledged the juſtice of the ſentence againſt them, and ſaid they had been guilty of many crimes beſides that for which they were to ſuffer.

At the place of execution they were ſo dejected as to be unable to addreſs the populace; but they again confeſſed their ſins, and recommended their ſouls to God, beſeeching his mercy, through the merits of Chriſt, with the utmoſt fervency of devotion.

Theſe malefactors were hanged at Tyburn, on the 4th of December, 1723.

A very ſhort, though important leſſon, may be learnt from the fate of theſe unhappy men. Idleneſs muſt have been the great ſource of their lawleſs depredations, which at length ended in murder. No man, however ſucceſsful in the pro-

profeſſion, can expect to get as much profit by deer ſtealing, as by following his lawful buſineſs. The truth is, that, in almoſt every inſtance, it coſts a man more pains to be a rogue than to be honeſt. Excluſive of the duties of religion, young perſons cannot learn a more important maxim than that in the ſcripture; "the hand of "the diligent maketh rich."

In this place it may not be improper to make a ſingle remark on the game laws. Theſe are ſuppoſed to be, poſſibly not without reaſon, ſevere: it is contended that thoſe animals which are wild by nature are equally the property of every man. Perhaps this is the truth: but perſons in the lower ranks of life ſhould remember, that when laws are once enacted, THEY MUST BE OBEYED. Safety lies in acquieſcence with, not in oppoſition to, legal inſtitutions.

Particulars reſpecting JOHN STANLEY, who was hanged for Murder.

MR. STANLEY was the ſon of an officer in the army, and born in the year 1698, at Duce-Hall in Eſſex, a ſeat that belonged to Mr. Palmer, who was his uncle by the mother's ſide. Young Stanley being the favourite of his father, the latter began to teach him the art of fencing when he was no more than five years of age; and other officers likewiſe practiſing the ſame art with him, he became a kind of maſter of the ſword when he was but a mere boy: for, to ſtimulate his courage, it was common for thoſe who fenced with him to give him wine, or other ſtrong liquors.

In

In conſequence of this treatment the boy grew daring and inſolent beyond expreſſion, and at length behaved with ſo uncommon a degree of audacity that his father deemed him a ſingular character for bravery.

While he was very young, Mr. Stanley being ordered to join his regiment in Spain, took his ſon with him; and in that country he was a ſpectator of ſeveral engagements, but his principal delight was in trampling on the bodies of the deceaſed, after the battles were ended.

From Spain the elder Stanley was ordered to Ireland, whither he took his ſon, and there procured for him an enſign's commiſſion: but the young gentleman, habituating himſelf to extravagant company, ſpent much more money than the produce of his commiſſion, which he ſoon ſold, and then returned to England.

The father was greatly mortified at this proceeding, and adviſed him to make application to general Stanhope, who had been a warm friend to the family: but this advice was loſt on the young fellow, who abandoned himſelf to the moſt diſſolute courſe of life; borrowed money of all his acquaintance, which he ſoon ſquandered at the gaming tables, and procured farther ſupplies from women with whom he made illicit connections.

He was ſo vain of his acquaintance with the ladies, that he boaſted of their favours as an argument in proof of his own accompliſhments; though what he might obtain from the weakneſs of one woman, he commonly ſquandered on others, of more abandoned character.

One mode which he took to ſupply his extravagance, was to introduce himſelf into the company of young gentlemen who were but little acquainted

quainted with the vices of the age, whom he aſſiſted in waſting their fortunes in every ſpecies of ſcandalous diſſipation.

At length, after a ſcene of riot in London, he went with one of his aſſociates to Flanders, and thence to Paris; and Stanley boaſted not a little of the favours he received among the French ladies, and of the improvements he had made in the ſcience of fencing.

On his return to England the opinion he conceived of his ſkill in the uſe of the ſword made him inſufferably vain and preſuming. He would frequently intrude himſelf into company at a tavern, and ſaying he was come to make himſelf welcome, would ſit down at the table without farther ceremony. The company would ſometimes bear with his inſolence for the ſake of peace; but when this was the caſe, it was a chance if he did not pretend to have received ſome affront, and, drawing his ſword, walk off while the company was in confuſion. It was not always, however, that matters thus ended; for ſometimes a gentleman of ſpirit would take the liberty of kicking our hero out of the houſe.

It will now be proper to mention ſomething of his connection with Mrs. Maycock, the murder of whom coſt him his life. As he was returning from a gaming-houſe which he frequented in Covent-Garden, he met a Mr. Bryan of Newgate-ſtreet, and his ſiſter, Mrs. Maycock, the wife of a mercer on Ludgate-Hill. Stanley rudely ran againſt the man, and embraced the woman; on which a quarrel aroſe; but this ſubſiding, Stanley inſiſted on ſeeing the parties home: this he did, and ſpent the evening with them; and from

this circumſtance a fatal connection aroſe, as will appear in the ſequel.

Stanley having made an acquaintance with the family, ſoon afterwards met Mrs. Maycock at the houſe of a relation in Red-Lion-Street, Holborn. In a ſhort time Mr. Maycock removing into Southwark, the viſits of our captain were admitted on a footing of intimacy.

The huſband dying ſoon after this connection, Stanley became more at liberty to pay his addreſſes to the widow; and it appears that ſome conſiderable intimacy ſubſiſted between them, from the following letter, which is not more a proof of the abſurd vanity of the man that could write it, than of the woman that could keep him company after receiving it. The egregious coxcomb, and ſupercilious flatterer, is viſible in every line.

" I am to-morrow to be at the Opera; O that
" I could add with her I love. The Opera,
" where beauties leſs beauteous than thou, ſit
" panting, admired, and take the ſweet barba-
" rian ſounds. On Friday I ſhall be at the maſ-
" querade at Somerſet-Houſe, where modeſt plea-
" ſure hides itſelf, before it will be touched: but
" though it is uncertain in the ſhape, 'tis real to
" the ſenſe; for maſks ſcorn to ſteal, and not
" repay; therefore, as they conceal the face,
" they oft make the body the better known. At
" this end of the town many faded beauties bid
" the oleos and the bruſh kiſs their cheeks and
" lips, till their charms only glimmer with a
" borrowed grace; ſo that a city beauty, rich in
" her native ſpring of ſimplicity and loveline[ſ]s,
" will doubly ſhine with us; ſhine like the inno-
" cent

" cent morning bluſh of light, that glitters un-
" tainted on the gardens."

This exquiſite piece of nonſenſe flattered the vanity of the lady, ſo that he was admitted to repeat his viſits at his own convenience. At this time a young fellow who had ſerved his apprenticeſhip with the late Mr. Maycock, and who was poſſeſſed of a decent fortune to begin the world, paid his addreſſes to the young widow; but ſhe preferred a licentious life with Stanley, to a more virtuous connection.

Soon after this ſhe quitted her houſe in Southwark, and the lovers ſpent their time at balls, plays, and aſſemblies, till her money was diſſipated, when he did not ſcruple to inſinuate that ſhe had been too liberal of her favours to other perſons. In the mean time ſhe bore him three children, one of whom was living at the time of the father's execution.

Stanley continuing his diſſolute courſe of life, his parents became very uneaſy, in fear of the fatal conſequences that might enſue; and his father, who ſaw too late the wrong bias he had given to his education, procured him the commiſſion of a lieutenant, to go to Cape-Coaſt Caſtle, in the ſervice of the African company.

The young fellow ſeemed ſo pleaſed with this appointment, that his friends conceived great hopes that he would reform. Preparations being made for his voyage, and the company having advanced a conſiderable ſum, he went to Portſmouth, in order to embark: but he had been only a few days in that town, when he was followed by Mrs. Maycock, with her infant child. She reproached him with baſeneſs, in firſt debauching, and then leaving her to ſtarve: and employing all the arts ſhe was miſtreſs of to divert him from

his reſolution, he gave her half the money which belonged to the company, and followed her to London with the reſt.

Shocked with the news of this diſhonourable action, the father took to his bed, and died of grief. Young Stanley appeared greatly grieved at this event, and to divert his chagrin, he went to Flanders, where he ſtaid a conſiderable time, when he returned to England, and lived in as abandoned a manner as before.

Soon after his return, having drank freely with two tradeſmen, they all walked together towards Hampſtead; and meeting a Mr. Dawſon, with five other gentlemen, a quarrel enſued. One of the gentlemen fired a piſtol, the ball from which grazed Stanley's ſkin. Enraged hereby, the latter drew his ſword, and making a paſs at him the ſword ran into the body of Mr. Dawſon, through the lower part of his belly, and into his backbone. The wounded man was conveyed to a neighbouring houſe, where he lay ſix weeks before he was perfectly recovered.

However, as Dawſon happened to know Stanley, he took out a writ againſt him for damages, to recover the expence of the cure; but the writ was never executed, as Stanley was ſo celebrated for his ſkill in the uſe of his ſword, and his daring diſpoſition, that the bailiffs were afraid to arreſt him.

Not long after this, quarrelling with captain Chickley, at a cyder-cellar in Covent-Garden, Stanley challenged the captain to fight in a dark room. They ſhut themſelves in; but a conſtable being ſent for, broke open the door, and probably ſaved Stanley's life; for Chickley had then ran his ſword through his body, while he himſelf had received only two ſlight wounds.

It appears that Stanley ſtill paid occaſional viſits to Mrs. Maycock; and he had the inſolence to pretend anger at her receiving the viſits of other perſons, though he was not able to ſupport her; for he had the vanity to think that a woman whom he had debauched ought for ever to bear true allegiance to him, as a wife to a huſband.

Mrs. Maycock having been to viſit a gentleman, was returning one night through Chancery-Lane, in company with another woman, and Mr. Hammond of the Old-Bailey. Stanley, in company with another man, met the parties, and him and his companion inſiſted on going with the women. Hammond hereupon ſaid the ladies belonged to him; but Mrs. Maycock now recognizing Stanley, ſaid, "What, captain is it you?" He aſked her where ſhe was going: ſhe ſaid to Mr. Hammond's in the Old-Bailey. He replied that he was glad to meet her, and would go with her.

As they walked down Fleet-ſtreet Stanley deſired his companions to go back, and wait for him at an appointed place; and as the company was going forward, Stanley ſtruck a man who happened to be in his way, and kicked a woman on the ſame account.

Being arrived at Hammond's houſe, the company deſired Stanley to go home; but this he refuſed, and Mrs. Maycock going into the kitchen, he puſhed in after her, and ſome words having paſſed between them, he ſtabbed her ſo that ſhe died in about an hour and a half.

Other company going into the kitchen ſaw Stanley flouriſhing his ſword, while the deceaſed was fainting with loſs of blood, and crying out, "I am ſtabbed! I am murdered!" Stanley's ſword being taken from him, he threw himſelf down

down by Mrs. Maycock, and ſaid, " My dear " Hannah, will you not ſpeak to me?"

The offender being taken into cuſtody, was brought to his trial at the Old Bailey, where ſome witneſſes endeavoured to prove that he was a lunatic; but the jury conſidering his extravagant conduct as the effect of his vices only, and the evidence againſt him being poſitive, he was found guilty, and received ſentence of death.

Before his conviction he had behaved in a very inconſiderate manner, nor was his conduct much altered afterwards, only that when he heard the name of Mrs. Maycock mentioned, he was ſeized with violent tremblings, and drops of cold ſweat fell from his face.

He was carried to the place of execution in a mourning coach; but on being put into the cart under the gallows, he turned pale, and was ſo weak that he could not ſtand without ſupport. He made no ſpeech to the people, but only ſaid that as a hearſe was provided to take away his body, he hoped no one would prevent its receiving Chriſtian burial. It was obſerved that he wept bitterly after the cap was drawn over his eyes.

He was executed at Tyburn on the 23d of December, 1723, at the age of twenty-five years.

It is impoſſible to diſmiſs this ſubject without reflecting on the abſurd conduct of Stanley's father, who by his eagerneſs to teach him, while an infant, the uſe of the ſword, gave him that degree of falſe bravery, and mad courage, that tempted him to the unlawful uſe of it on every occaſion; and at length, combining with his vices, occaſioned the perpetration of the horrid crime of murder: a murder of the moſt aggravated nature; that of a woman who had fallen a

ſacrifice to his arts of ſeduction, aided, no doubt, by her own uncontroulable vanity.

The untimely fate of Mrs. Maycock ſhould teach married women the ineſtimable value of chaſtity. The woman who liſtens to the arts of a ſeducer is in the high-road to deſtruction: and as ſurely as ſhe ſuffers her perſon to be violated, ſhe entails miſery on herſelf and family, and lays the ground-work of a long ſeries of repentance: and happy may ſhe think herſelf if, by the grace of God, that repentance prove not ineffectual.

Caſe of STEPHEN GARDENER, who was hanged for a Burglary.

THIS malefactor was born in Moorfields, of poor parents, who put him apprentice to a weaver; but his behaviour ſoon became ſo bad, that his maſter was obliged to correct him ſeverely; on which he ran away, and aſſociated with blackguard boys in the ſtreets, and then was driven home through mere hunger.

His friends now determined to ſend him to ſea, and put him on board a corn-veſſel, the maſter of which traded to France and Holland. Being an idle and uſeleſs hand on board, he was treated ſo roughly by his ſhipmates that he grew heartily tired of a ſea-faring life; and on his return from the firſt voyage, he promiſed the utmoſt obedience, if his friends would permit him to remain at home.

This was readily complied with, in the hope of his reformation, and he was now put to a waterman; but being impatient of reſtraint, he ſoon quitted his ſervice, and engaged with diſſolute fel-

fellows in the neighbourhood of Moorfields, with whom he played at cards, dice, &c, till he was ſtripped of what little money he had, and then commenced pickpocket.

His firſt attempt of this kind was in Guildhall, during the drawing of the lottery, when he took a wig out of a man's pocket; but though he was detected in the offence, the humanity of the ſurrounding multitude permitted his eſcape. This circumſtance encouraged him to continue his practice, and about a month afterwards he was detected in picking another pocket, and notwithſtanding his proteſtations of innocence, underwent the diſcipline of the horſe-pond.

He was now determined to give over a buſineſs which was neceſſarily attended with ſo much hazard, and afforded ſo little proſpect of advantage; but ſoon afterwards he became acquainted with two notorious houſe-breakers, named Garraway and Sly, who offered to take him as a partner; but he rejected their propoſals, till one night, when he had loſt all his money and moſt of his cloaths, at cards; then he went to his new acquaintance, and agreed to be concerned in their illicit practices.

Garraway propoſed that they ſhould rob his own brother, which being immediately agreed to, they broke open his houſe, and ſtole moſt of his and his wife's wearing apparel, which they ſold, and ſpent the money in extravagance. They in the next place robbed Garraway's uncle of a conſiderable quantity of plate, which they ſold to a woman named Gill, who diſpoſed of the plate, and never accounted to them for the produce. Gardener, provoked at being thus defrauded of his ſhare of the ill-got booty, informed Jonathan Wild of the robbery, who got him admitted an evi-

evidence againſt the other men, who were convicted, but reſpited on condition of being tranſported.

Gardener having been now ſome time acquainted with a woman who kept a public-houſe in Fleet-Lane, and who was poſſeſſed of ſome money, he propoſed to marry her, with a view of obtaining her property; and the woman liſtening to his offer, they were married by one of the Fleet parſons.

The money Gardener obtained with his ſpouſe was ſoon ſpent in extravagance; and not long afterwards they were apprehended on ſuſpicion of felony, and conducted to St. Sepulchre's Watch-houſe: however, the charge againſt them not being validated, it was neceſſary to diſmiſs them; but before they were ſet at liberty, the conſtable ſaid to Gardener, "Beware how you come here "again, or this bell-man will certainly ſay his "verſes over you:" for the bell-man happened to be at that time in the watch-houſe.

It has been a very ancient practice, on the night preceding the execution of condemned criminals, for the bell-man of the pariſh of St. Sepulchre to go under Newgate, and, ringing his bell, to repeat the following verſes to the unhappy wretches under ſentence of death:

All you that in the condemn'd-hold do lie,
Prepare you, for to-morrow you ſhall die,
Watch all, and pray, the hour is drawing near
That you before th' Almighty muſt appear.
Examine well yourſelves, in time repent,
That you may not t'eternal flames be ſent:

And when St. 'Pulchre's bell to-morrow tolls,
The Lord above have mercy on your ſouls !
Paſt twelve o'clock!

The following extract from Stowe's Survey of London, page 195, of the quarto Edition, printed in 1618, will prove that the above verſes ought to be repeated by a clergyman, inſtead of the bell-man.

" Robert Doue, Citizen and Merchant-Taylor,
" of London,—— gaue to the pariſh church of
" St. Sepulchres, the ſumme of 50l. That after
" the ſeueral ſeſſions of London, when the pri-
" ſoners remaine in the goale, as condemned
" men to death, expecting execution on the mor-
" row following: the clarke (that is, the parſon)
" of the church ſhoold come in the night-time,
" and likewiſe early in the morning, to the win-
" dow of the priſon where they lye, and there
" ringing certain toles with a hand-bell, appoint-
" ed for the purpoſe, he doth afterward (in moſt
" Chriſtian manner) put them in mind of their
" preſent condition, and enſuing execution, de-
" ſiring them to be prepared therefore as they
" ought to be. When they are in the cart, and
" brought before the wal of the church, there he
" ſtandeth ready with the ſame bel, and after cer-
" tain toles rehearſeth an appointed praier, de-
" ſiring all the people there preſent to pray for
" them. The beadle alſo of Merchant-Taylors
" Hal hath an honeſt allowed ſtipend, to ſee that
" this is duely done."

Gardener was greatly affected when the conſtable told him that the bell-man would ſay his verſes

verſes over him: but the impreſſion it made on his mind ſoon wore off, and he quickly returned to his vicious practices.

In a ſhort time after this adventure, Gardener fell into company with one Rice Jones, and they agreed to go together on the *paſſing lay*, which is an artifice frequently practiſed in modern times; and though the ſharpers are often taken into cuſtody, and their tricks expoſed in the news-papers, yet there are repeatedly found people weak enough to ſubmit to the impoſition.

The following is a deſcription of this trick from a book formerly printed. "The rogues having "concerted their plan, one of them takes a "countryman into a public-houſe, under pre-"tence of any buſineſs they can think of; then "the other comes in as a ſtranger, and in a little "time finds a pack of cards, which his com-"panion had deſignedly laid on ſome ſhelf in the "room: on which the two ſharpers begin to "play. At length one of them offers a wager "on the game, and puts down his money. The "other ſhews his cards to the countryman, to "convince him that he muſt certainly win, and "offers to let him go halves in the wager; but "ſoon after the countryman has laid down his "money, the ſharpers manage the matter ſo as "to *paſs off* with it."

This was evidently the mode of tricking formerly; but it ſeems to have been improved on of late years; for the ſharpers generally game with the countryman till he has loſt all his money; and then he has only to execrate his own folly for ſuffering himſelf to be duped by a couple of raſcals.

In this practice our adventurers were very ſucceſsful at different places, particularly at Briſtol;

but in this laſt place Jones bilked Gardener in ſuch a manner as to prove that there is no truth in the obſervation of "honour among thieves;" for Jones having defrauded a country gentleman of a gold watch and chain, a ſuit of laced cloaths, and about a hundred guineas, gave no ſhare of the booty to Gardener.

This induced the latter to think of revenge; but he diſguiſed his ſentiments, and they went together to Bath, where they remained ſome time, and then proceeded on their journey; but in the morning on which they ſet out, Gardener ſtole an iron peſtle from the inn where they lay, and concealed it in his boot, with an intention of murdering his companion when they ſhould come into an unfrequented place.

On their journey Gardener generally kept behind Jones, and twice took out the peſtle, with an intention to perpetrate the murder: but his reſolution failing him, he at length dropped it in the road, unperceived by his companion.

In a few days afterwards theſe companions in iniquity parted; and on this occaſion Jones ſaid, "Hark ye, Gardener, whither are you going?" "—To London, (ſaid he.) "Why then (re-"plied Jones) you are going to be hanged."

We find that this was not the firſt intimation that Gardener received of the fatal conſequence that muſt attend his illicit practices: but it appeared to have no good effect on him; for ſoon after he quitted Jones, he broke open a houſe between Abergavenny and Monmouth; but finding no money, he took only a gown, with which he rode off.

Soon after his arrival in London he robbed a houſe on Addle-hill, but was not apprehended for it: but in a ſhort time he broke open the houſe

of Mrs. Roberts, and carried off linen to the amount of twenty-five pounds.

In this robbery he was aſſiſted by John Martin, and both the offenders being ſoon afterwards taken into cuſtody, were brought to trial, capitally convicted; and received ſentence of death; but Martin was afterwards reprieved, on condition of tranſportation for fourteen years.

After ſentence of death Gardener became as ſincere a penitent as he had been a notorious offender. He reſigned himſelf to his fate with the utmoſt ſubmiſſion; and before he quitted Newgate on the day of execution he dreſſed himſelf in a ſhroud, in which he was executed, refuſing to wear any other cloaths, though the weather was intenſely cold.

At the fatal tree he ſaw ſome of his old companions, whom he deſired to take warning by his calamitous fate; to avoid bad company, and embrace a life of ſobriety, as the moſt certain road to happineſs in this world and the next.

He was executed at Tyburn on the 3d of February, 1724.

The fate of this malefactor ſhews us the ill conſequence of an early attachment to gaming. It unfits both the mind and body for all honeſt employment, and though it does not in all inſtances lead to the gallows, it is one of the readieſt preparatives to it that can be imagined. It is to be hoped that parents in general will be cautious to prevent the ſpirit of gaming in their children, ſince nothing more effectually allures to deſtruction; and the happineſs of the next generation muſt depend much on the care we take of the preſent.

We wiſh the tricks ſo frequently and ſucceſsfully played by gamblers, may teach people in general,

general, and country farmers in particular, to be guarded againſt their arts. People who have no bad deſign of their own are not apt to ſuſpect others; but any perſon may be certain that when a ſtranger produces a pack of cards, and tempts him to game, no good can be idtended. The life of a gambler is not only wretched in itſelf, but tends to make unhappy all thoſe with whom he is connected!

Particulars reſpecting FRANCIS BRIGHTWELL, and BENJAMIN BRIGHTWELL, who were tried for a Highway-Robbery, and acquitted.

AS it is one profeſſed deſign of this publication to give trials in extraordinary caſes, on which the parties accuſed have been acquitted; in compliance with this rule we inſert the following, though it will be ſeen that the ſuppoſed offenders, ſo far from being thieves, were an ornament to human nature.

In the month of Auguſt, 1724, Francis Brightwell, and Benjamin Brightwell, were indicted for aſſaulting John Pargiter on the highway, and robbing him of three ſhillings.

It was ſworn by Mr. Pargiter that he had been robbed on the road to Hampſtead, by two fellows * dreſſed in ſoldiers cloaths; and that being on the ſame road a few days afterwards, he was ſhewing ſome farmers the ſpot where he had been robbed, at the very time when the Brightwell's came in ſight;

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* In the courſe of the following pages it will appear that this robbery was committed by Sheppard and Blueſkin.

ſight; on which he declared that they were the perſons who had robbed him; whereupon they were immediately taken into cuſtody; which was a work of no great difficulty, as the ſurprize on being charged with a crime of which they were wholly innocent deprived them of all idea of reſiſtance.

Theſe brothers were ſoldiers in the grenadier guards; and when they were carried before a magiſtrate, though Mr. Pargiter ſwore poſitively to their perſons, Francis alledged that he was on guard at the time of the robbery, and Benjamin ſaid that he was at home.

On the trial, the ſerjeant produced the regimental book, from which it was evident that, when the robbery was committed, Francis was on guard at Kenſington: and ſeveral perſons of reputation proved that Benjamin was at his lodgings in Clare-Market; and likewiſe gave him an excellent character.

With regard to Francis, Mr. Hughs, a clergyman, delivered his teſtimony in the following words, "I have known Francis Brightwell near "twenty years. He was always reputed to be a "perſon of the faireſt character, for ſobriety, "piety, and juſtice. He was, to an extraordi- "nary degree, accompliſhed with Latin and "Greek literature, and had good ſkill in Ro- "man antiquities; and, in a word, he carried ſo "great a ſhare of exquiſite learning under his "grenadier's cap, that I believe there is not ſuch "another grenadier in the univerſe."

This teſtimony of Mr. Hughs was confirmed by a number of military officers; and the court and jury conſidering that Mr. Pargiter muſt have been miſtaken in the parties who robbed him, the brothers were honourably acquitted.

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On the 22d of the month in which he was tried, Francis Brightwell died at his lodgings at Paddington, as ſuppoſed of the goal diſtemper. He was attended, during his ſhort illneſs, by the late eminent Sir Hans Sloan; but the malignity of his diſorder defied the power of medicine.

The following curious letter, reſpecting Francis Brightwell, is extracted from the news-paper, called the Britiſh Journal, of the 5th of September, 1724.

SIR,

"Finding that all our public papers, from the 4th of Auguſt to this day, have omitted to make honourable mention of ſome very remarkable circumſtances relating to a very private perſon, I deſire his memory may be depoſited in your journal. The perſon I mean, is Francis Brightwell the grenadier, who was tried and acquitted at the Old Bailey, for a robbery ſworn againſt him; and who, ſince his coming out of priſon, died, as 'tis ſaid, of the goal diſtemper."

When evidence was given againſt him in court, Brightwell, by ſeveral witneſſes, proved, that he was upon the king's guard, at Kenſington, at the time that the robbery (if a robbery) was committed. Hereupon the court went into an enquiry concerning the reputation and character of the priſoner. Some officers who had known him long in the ſervice, gave teſtimony to his ſobriety and diligence in the duty of a ſoldier. As to his honeſty a lady (preſent in court) declared, ſhe had entruſted him with a thouſand pounds at a time; and, a gentleman, that he had committed his houſe and goods, to the value of 6000l. to his keeping: in both which truſts Brightwell had acquit-

quitted himſelf to the ſatisfaction of the parties concerned.

Theſe ample teſtimonies, concurring to the honour of a man in ſo low a condition of life, gave (you may imagine) no ſmall ſurprize to all that were preſent; when a clergyman added to their aſtoniſhment, by declaring, that he had long known the priſoner to be not only a perſon of ſobriety but likewiſe of very excellent learning, and particularly in Latin and Greek: for, that Brightwell had often conſulted him, upon difficult paſſages in Virgil and Horace.

Thus much for what appeared at the trial of this grenadier. I ſhall only remark upon his learning, that I am amazed that ſcholarſhip is not very common among military men, conſidering their profeſſion admits of more leiſure hours than any other. Perhaps theſe gentlemen are afraid of knowledge, from a celebrated maxim delivered by John Dryden, *the learned all are cowards by profeſſion:* and yet Alexander and Cæſar were ſcholars; and they did not ſeem to want courage.

But, to purſue what further particulars I have learned of this deceaſed grenadier. He was contented in his ſtation, ſtudious of leiſure, and ambitious only of knowledge. He had offers of being promoted to the rank of corporal or ſerjeant; which he declined, that he might have as few avocations as poſſible from his ſtudies. Neither did he ever covet money; and, I am apt to believe, had he been at the ſacking of a town, he would not have thought of carrying off any other plunder, but a valuable book or two. Take the following inſtance of his diſregard of gain. He had an excellent manner of cleaning and furbiſhing arms, for which he had his ſettled prices. An

officer, whoſe arms he had brightened, was ſo well pleaſed with his work, that he ſent Brightwell (over and above the uſual price) a guinea for a preſent. The philoſopher took his price, and returned the guinea by the ſervant. Some time after, when the gentleman ſaw him, *why*, ſaid he, *would you not accept the guinea I ſent you?—I am paid for my work*, replied the centinel, *and deſire no more—Accept of a crown then, if your modeſty makes you think a guinea too much*, ſaid the officer.—*Excuſe me, Sir*, anſwered the Veteran, *and do not think it vanity or affectation, when I refuſe your kindneſs; but, indeed, Sir, I don't want it: But I am thirſty, and have no money about me; ſo that if your honour will be pleaſed to give me three-pence to drink your health, I ſhall thankfully accept of it.*

This laſt particular of our grenadier runs ſo very parallel with a ſtory in Sir William Temple's Obſervations of the united Provinces, that I think it proper to tranſcribe it on this occaſion. Vol. 1. p. 50. ‘ Among the many and various ‘ hoſpitals that are in every man's curioſity and ‘ talk that travels Holland, I was affected with ‘ none more than that of the aged ſeamen at Enchuſyden, which is contrived, finiſhed, and ‘ ordered, as if it were done with a kind intention of ſome well-natured man, that thoſe, who ‘ had paſſed their whole lives in the hardſhips and ‘ incommodities of the ſea, ſhould find a retreat, ‘ ſtored with all the eaſe and conveniency that old ‘ age is capable of feeling and enjoying. And ‘ here I met with the only rich man that I ever ‘ ſaw in my life: for one of theſe old ſeamen, entertaining me with the plain ſtories of his fifty ‘ years voyages and adventures, while I was ‘ viewing this hoſpital and the church adjoining, ‘ I gave him, at parting, a piece of their coin,

‘ about

'about the value of a crown: he took it ſmiling,
'and offered it me again; but when I refuſed it,
'he aſked me what he ſhould do with the money?
'I left him to overcome his modeſty as he could;
'but a ſervant coming after me, ſaw him give it
'to a little girl, that opened the church door, as
'ſhe paſt by him: which made me reflect on the
'fantaſtick calculation of riches and poverty,
'that is current in the world, by which a man
'that wants a million is a prince, he that wants
'but a groat is a beggar, and this was *a poor man*
'*that wanted nothing at all.*'

The caſe of theſe brothers affords an admirable leſſon to proſecutors to be cautious how they ſwear to the identity of perſons. It is better that the guilty ſhould eſcape, than that the innocent ſhould be puniſhed.

It likewiſe affords us an inſtance of the myſterious Providence of God. Two innocent men are charged with a crime; and the conſequence of impriſonment, and poſſibly of grief, ends in the death of one of them. We may preſume that he was too good for this wicked world; and that the Almighty choſe this method of calling him to a better!

The Life and Tranſactions of JOSEPH BLAKE, otherwiſe Blueſkin, who was hanged for Burglary.

THIS offender, who was a native of London, was ſent to ſchool by his parents for the ſpace of ſix years; but he made little progreſs in learning, having a very early propenſity to acts of diſhoneſty. While at ſchool he made

an acquaintance with William Blewit, who afterwards entered into Jonathan Wild's gang, and became one of the moſt notorious villains of the age.

No ſooner had Blake left ſchool than he commenced pickpocket, and had been in all the priſons for felons before he was fifteen years of age. From this practice he turned ſtreet-robber, and joined with Oaky, Levee, and many other villains, who acted under the directions of Jonathan Wild. For ſome of the robberies they committed they were taken into cuſtody, and Blake was admitted an evidence againſt his companions, who were convicted.

In conſequence of theſe convictions Blake claimed his liberty, and part of the reward allowed by government: but he was informed by the court that he had no right to either, becauſe he was not a voluntary evidence, ſince, ſo far from having ſurrendered, he had made an obſtinate reſiſtance, and was much wounded before he was taken; and therefore he muſt find ſecurity for his good behaviour, or be tranſported.

Not being able to give the requiſite ſecurity, he was lodged in Wood-ſtreet Compter, where he remained a conſiderable time, during which Jonathan Wild allowed him three ſhillings and ſixpence a week. At length he prevailed on two gardeners to be his bail; but the court at the Old Bailey heſitating to take their ſecurity, they went before Sir John Fryer, who took their recognizance for Blake's good behaviour for ſeven years. A gentleman who happened to be preſent at Sir John's, aſked how long it might be before Blake would appear again at the Old Bailey; to which another gentleman anſwered, "three ſeſ-

"ſions;"

" ſions;" and he happened to be perfectly right in his conjecture.

Blake had no ſooner obtained his liberty than he was concerned in ſeveral robberies with Jack Sheppard, and particularly that for which the two brothers, Brightwell, were tried. The foot-pad robberies and burglaries they committed were very numerous; but the fact for which Blake ſuffered was the robbery of Mr. Kneebone, as will appear by the following account.

At the Old Bailey ſeſſions, in October, 1724, Joſeph Blake, otherwiſe Blueſkin, was indicted for breaking and entering the dwelling-houſe of William Kneebone, and ſtealing 108 yards of woollen cloth, value 36l. and other goods. The proſecutor having ſworn that the bars of his cellar-window were cut, and that the cellar-door, which had been bolted and padlocked, was broke open, he acquainted Jonathan Wild with what had happened, who went to Blake's lodgings, with two other perſons; but Blake refuſing to open the door, it was broke open by Quilt Arnold, one of Wild's men.

On this Blake drew a penknife, and ſwore he would kill the firſt man that entered; in anſwer to which Arnold ſaid, " Then I am the firſt man, " and Mr. Wild is not far behind, and if you " don't deliver your penknife immediately, I " will chop your arm off." Hereupon the priſoner dropped the knife; and Wild entering, he was taken into cuſtody.

As the parties were conveying Blake to Newgate, they came by the houſe of the proſecutor, on which Wild ſaid to the priſoner, " There's " the ken," and the latter replied, " Say no " more of that Mr. Wild, for I know I am a " dead man; but what I fear is that I ſhall after-

" wards

" wards be carried to Surgeon's-Hall, and ana-
" tomized:" to which Wild replied, " No, I'll
" take care to prevent that, for 'Ill give you a
" coffin."

William Field, who was evidence on the trial, ſwore that the robbery was committed by Blake, Sheppard, and himſelf: and the jury brought in a verdict of guilty.

As ſoon as the verdict was given Blake addreſſed the court in the following terms: " On
" Wedneſday morning laſt Jonathan Wild ſaid to
" Simon Jacobs, * I believe you will not bring
" 40l. this time: I wiſh Joe (meaning me) was
" in your caſe; but I'll do my endeavour to
" bring you off as a ſingle felon. And then
" turning to me, he ſaid, ' I believe you muſt
" die—I'll ſend you a good book or two, and
" provide you a coffin, and you ſhall not be ana-
" tomized."

Wild was to have been an evidence againſt this malefactor; but going to viſit him in the bail-dock, previous to his trial, Blake ſuddenly drew a claſped pen-knife, with which he cut Jonathan's throat, which prevented his giving evidence; but as the knife was blunt, the wound, though dangerous, did not prove mortal; and we ſhall ſee that Jonathan was reſerved for a different fate.

While under ſentence of death, Blake did not ſhew a concern proportioned to his calamitous ſituation. When aſked if he was adviſed to commit the violence on Wild, he ſaid No, but that a ſudden thought entered his mind, or he would have provided a knife, which would have cut off a head at once.

On

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* Jacobs was then a priſoner, and afterwards tranſported.

On the nearer approach of death he appeared ſtill leſs concerned, and it was thought that his mind was chiefly bent on meditating means of eſcaping; but ſeeing no proſpect of getting away, he took to drinking, which he continued even to the day of his death; for he was obſerved to be intoxicated even while he was under the gallows.

He was executed at Tyburn on the 11th of November, 1723.

This malefactor appears to have been a thief almoſt from his cradle: his habits of vice encreaſed with his growing years, till at length he died, in the moſt ignominious manner, a victim to the violated laws of his country. Examples have generally more weight than precepts: from that of Blake, who became vicious at ſo early a period, notwithſtanding the care his parents took to give him good education, young people ſhould learn the duty of gratitude to thoſe parents who are kind and thoughtful enough to lay the foundation of their future happineſs by proper inſtructions in their youth.

The advantages of early piety likewiſe become conſpicuous from the fate of thoſe who neglect religion in the early part of life.

Happy the child whoſe younger years
  Receive inſtructions well;
Who hates the ſinners path, and fears
  The road that leads to hell.

When we devote our youth to God,
  'Tis pleaſing in his eyes:
A flower, when offer'd in the bud,
  Is no vain ſacrifice.

'Tis

'Tis eaſier work if we begin
To fear the Lord betimes;
While ſinners that grow old in ſin
Are hardened in their crimes.

Narrative of the Life, Trial, and Execution of JOHN SHEPPARD, who was hanged for Burglary.

THE caſe of this malefactor having been more the ſubject of public converſation than that of almoſt any one who ever underwent the ſentence of the law, and his adventures being in themſelves very remarkable, we ſhall be the more particular in our account of him.

John Sheppard was born in Spital-fields in the year 1702. His father, who was a carpenter, bore the character of an honeſt man; yet he had another ſon named Thomas, who, as well as Jack, turned out a thief.

The father dying while the boys were very young, they were left to the care of the mother, who placed Jack at a ſchool in Biſhopſgate-ſtreet, where he remained two years, and was then put apprentice to a cane-chair-maker in Houndſditch. His maſter dying when he had been only a ſhort time with him, he was placed with another perſon of the ſame trade: but here he was ſo ill-treated that he remained only a ſhort time, when he was taken into the protection of Mr. Kneebone, a woollen-draper in the Strand, who had ſome knowledge of his father. At length Mr. Kneebone put him apprentice to a carpenter in Wych-ſtreet.

He

He behaved with decency in this place for about four years, when frequenting the Black Lion alehouſe in Drury-Lane, he became acquainted with ſome abandoned women, among whom the principal was Elizabeth Lyon, otherwiſe called Edgworth Beſs, from the town of Edgworth, where ſhe was born.

While he continued to work as a carpenter he often committed robberies in the houſes where he was employed, ſtealing tankards, ſpoons, and other articles, which he carried to Edgworth Beſs; but not being ſuſpected of having committed theſe robberies, he at length reſolved to commence houſe-breaker.

Excluſive of Edgworth Beſs he was acquainted with a woman named Maggot, who perſuaded him to rob the houſe of Mr. Bains, a piece-broker in White Horſe Yard; and Jack having brought away a piece of fuſtian from thence, (which he depoſited in his trunk) went afterwards at midnight, and taking the bars out of the cellar-window, entered, and ſtole goods and money to the amount of twenty-two pounds which he carried to Maggot.

As Sheppard did not go home that night, nor the following day, his maſter ſuſpected that he had made bad connections, and ſearching his trunk, found the piece of fuſtian that had been ſtolen; but Sheppard, hearing of this, broke open his maſter's houſe in the night, and carried off the fuſtian, leſt it ſhould be brought in evidence againſt him.

Sheppard's maſter ſending intelligence to Mr. Bains of what had happened, the latter looked over his goods, and miſſing ſuch a piece of fuſtian as had been deſcribed to him, ſuſpected that

Sheppard muſt have been the robber, and determined to have him taken into cuſtody; but Jack, hearing of the affair, went to him, and threatened a proſecution for ſcandal, alledging that he had received the piece of fuſtian from his mother, who bought it for him in Spitalfields. The mother, with a view to ſcreen her ſon, declared that what he had aſſerted was true, though ſhe could not point out the place where ſhe had made the purchaſe. Though this ſtory was not credited, Mr. Bains did not take any farther ſteps in the affair.

Sheppard's maſter ſeemed willing to think well of him, and he continued ſome time longer in the family; but after aſſociating himſelf with the worſt of company, and frequently ſtaying out the whole night, his maſter and he quarrelled, and the headſtrong youth totally abſconded in the laſt year of his apprenticeſhip, and became connected with a ſet of villains of Jonathan Wild's gang.

Jack now worked as a journeyman carpenter, with a view to the eaſier commiſſion of robbery; and being employed to aſſiſt in repairing the houſe of a gentleman in May-Fair, he took an opportunity of carrying off a ſum of money, a quantity of plate, ſome gold rings, and four ſuits of cloaths.

Not long after this Edgworth Beſs was apprehended, and lodged in the Round-houſe of the pariſh of St. Giles, where Sheppard went to viſit her, and the beadle refuſing to admit him, he knocked him down, broke open the door, and carried her off in triumph; an exploit which acquired him a high degree of credit with the women of abandoned character.

In the month of Auguſt, 1723, Thomas Sheppard, the brother of Jack, was indicted at the Old

Old Bailey, for two petty offences, and being convicted, was burnt in the hand. Soon after his diſcharge, he prevailed on Jack to lend him forty ſhillings, and take him as a partner in his robberies. The firſt fact they committed in concert was the robbing a public-houſe in Southwark, whence they carried off ſome money, and wearing apparel: but Jack permitted his brother to reap the whole advantage of this booty.

Not long after this, the brothers, in conjunction with Edgworth Beſs, broke open the ſhop of Mrs. Cook, a linen-draper in Clare-market, and carried off goods to the value of fifty-five pounds; and in leſs than a fortnight afterwards ſtole ſome articles from the houſe of Mr. Phillips in Drury-Lane.

Tom Sheppard going to ſell ſome of the goods ſtolen at Mrs. Cook's, was apprehended and committed to Newgate, when, in the hope of being admitted an evidence he impeached his brother and Edgworth Beſs, but they were ſought for in vain.

At length James Sikes, otherwiſe called Hell and Fury, one of Sheppard's companions, meeting with him in St. Giles's, enticed him into a public-houſe, in the hope of receiving a reward for apprehending him; and while they were drinking, Sikes ſent for a conſtable, who took Jack into cuſtody, and carried him before a magiſtrate, who, after a ſhort examination, ſent him to St. Giles's Round-houſe: but he broke through the roof of that place, and made his eſcape in the night.

Within a ſhort time after this, as Sheppard and an aſſociate, named Benſon, were croſſing Leiceſter-fields, the latter endeavoured to pick a gentleman's pocket of his watch, but failing in the

attempt, the gentleman called out "A pickpock-
"et," on which Sheppard was taken, and lodged in St. Anne's Round-houſe, where he was viſited by Edgworth Beſs, who was detained on ſuſpicion of being one of his accomplices.

On the following day they were carried before a magiſtrate, and ſome perſons appearing who charged them with felonies, they were committed to New-Priſon; and as they paſſed for huſband and wife, they were permitted to lodge together in a room known by the name of Newgate-Ward.

Sheppard being viſited by ſeveral of his acquaintance, ſome of them furniſhed him with implements to make his eſcape, and early in the morning, a few days after his commitment, he filed off his fetters, and having made a hole in the wall, he took an iron bar and a wooden one out of the window; but as the height from which he was to deſcend was twenty-five feet, he tied a blanket and a ſheet together, and making one of them faſt to a bar in the window, Edgworth Beſs firſt deſcended, and Jack followed her.

Having reached the yard, they had ſtill a wall of twenty-two feet high to ſcale; but climbing up by the locks and bolts of the great gate, they got quite out of the priſon, and effected a perfect eſcape.

Sheppard's fame was greatly celebrated among the lower orders of people by this exploit; and the thieves of St. Giles's courted his company. Among the reſt, one Charles Grace, a cooper, begged that he would take him as an aſſociate in his robberies, alledging as a reaſon for this requeſt, that the girl he kept was ſo extravagant, that he could not ſupport her on the profits of his own thefts. Sheppard did not heſitate to make this

this new connection; but at the ſame time ſaid that he did not admit of the partnerſhip with a view to any advantage to himſelf, but that Grace might reap the profits of their depredations.

Sheppard and Grace making an acquaintance with Anthony Lamb, an apprentice to a mathematical inſtrument maker near St. Clement's church, it was agreed to rob a gentleman who lodged with Lamb's maſter, and at two o'clock in the morning Lamb let in the other villains, who ſtole money and effects to a large amount. They left the door open, and Lamb went to bed, to prevent ſuſpicion: but notwithſtanding this, his maſter did ſuſpect him, and having him taken into cuſtody, he confeſſed the whole affair before a magiſtrate, and being committed to Newgate, he was tried, convicted, and received ſentence to be tranſported.

On the ſame day Thomas Sheppard (the brother of Jack) was indicted for breaking open the dwelling-houſe of Mary Cook, and ſtealing her goods, and being convicted, was ſentenced to tranſportation.

Jack Sheppard not being in cuſtody, he and Blueſkin committed a number of daring robberies, and ſometimes diſpoſed of the ſtolen goods to William Field. Jack uſed to ſay that Field wanted courage to commit a robbery, though he was as great a villain as ever exiſted.

Sheppard ſeems to have thought that courage conſiſted in villainy; and if this were the caſe Field had an undoubted claim to the character of a man of courage; for in October, 1721, he was tried on four indictments for felony and burglary, and he was an accomplice in a variety of robberies. He was likewiſe an evidence againſt one of his aſſociates on another occaſion.

Shep-

Sheppard and Blueſkin hired a ſtable near the Horſe-Ferry, Weſtminſter, in which they depoſited their ſtolen goods, till they could diſpoſe of them to the beſt advantage; and in this place they put the woollen cloth which was ſtolen from Mr. Kneebone; for Sheppard was concerned in this robbery, and at the ſeſſions held at the Old Bailey in Auguſt, 1724, he was indicted for ſeveral offences, and among the reſt, for breaking and entering the houſe of William Kneebone, and ſtealing 108 yards of woollen cloth, and other articles, and being capitally convicted, received ſentence of death.

We muſt now go back to obſerve, that Sheppard and Blueſkin having applied to Field to look at theſe goods, and procure a cuſtomer for them, he promiſed to do ſo; nor was he worſe than his word; for in the night he broke open their warehouſe, and ſtole the ill-gotten property, and then gave information againſt them to Jonathan Wild, in conſequence of which they were apprehended.

On Monday the 30th of Auguſt, 1724, a warrant was ſent to Newgate for the execution of Sheppard, with other convicts under ſentence of death.

It is proper to obſerve that in the old goal of Newgate there was, within the lodge, a hatch, with large iron ſpikes, which hatch opened into a dark paſſage, whence there were a few ſteps into the condemned hold. The priſoners being permitted to come down to the hatch to ſpeak with their friends, Sheppard, having been ſupplied with inſtruments, took an opportunity of cutting one of the ſpikes in ſuch a manner that it might be eaſily broken off.

On

On the evening of the above-mentioned 30th of Auguſt, two women of Sheppard's acquaintance going to viſit him, he broke off the ſpike, and thruſting his head and ſhoulders through the ſpace, the women pulled him down, and he effected his eſcape, notwithſtanding ſome of the keepers were at that time drinking at the other end of the lodge.

On the day after his eſcape he went to a public-houſe in Spitalfields, whence he ſent for an old acquaintance, one Page, a butcher in Clare-market, and adviſed with him how to render his eſcape effectual for his future preſervation. After deliberating on the matter, they agreed to go to Warnden in Northamptonſhire, where Page had ſome relations: and they had no ſooner reſolved than they made the journey: but Page's relations treating him with indifference, they returned to London after being abſent only about a week.

On the night after their return, as they were walking up Fleet-ſtreet together, they ſaw a watchmaker's ſhop open, and only a boy attending: having paſſed the ſhop they turned back, and Sheppard driving his hand through the window, ſtole three watches, with which they made their eſcape.

Some of Sheppard's old acquaintance informing him that ſtrict ſearch was making after them, he and Page retired to Finchley, in hope of laying there concealed till the diligence of the jail-keepers ſhould relax: but the keepers of Newgate having intelligence of their retreat, took Sheppard into cuſtody, and conveyed him to his old lodgings.

Such ſteps were now taken as it was thought would be effectual to prevent his future eſcape.

He

He was put into a ſtrong room called the Caſtle, hand-cuffed, loaded with a heavy pair of irons, and chained to a ſtaple fixed in the floor.

The curioſity of the public having been greatly excited by his former eſcape, he was viſited by great numbers of people of all ranks, and ſcarce any one left him without making him a preſent in money; though he would have more gladly received a file, a hammer, or a chiſſel; but the utmoſt care was taken that none of his viſitors ſhould furniſh him with ſuch implements.

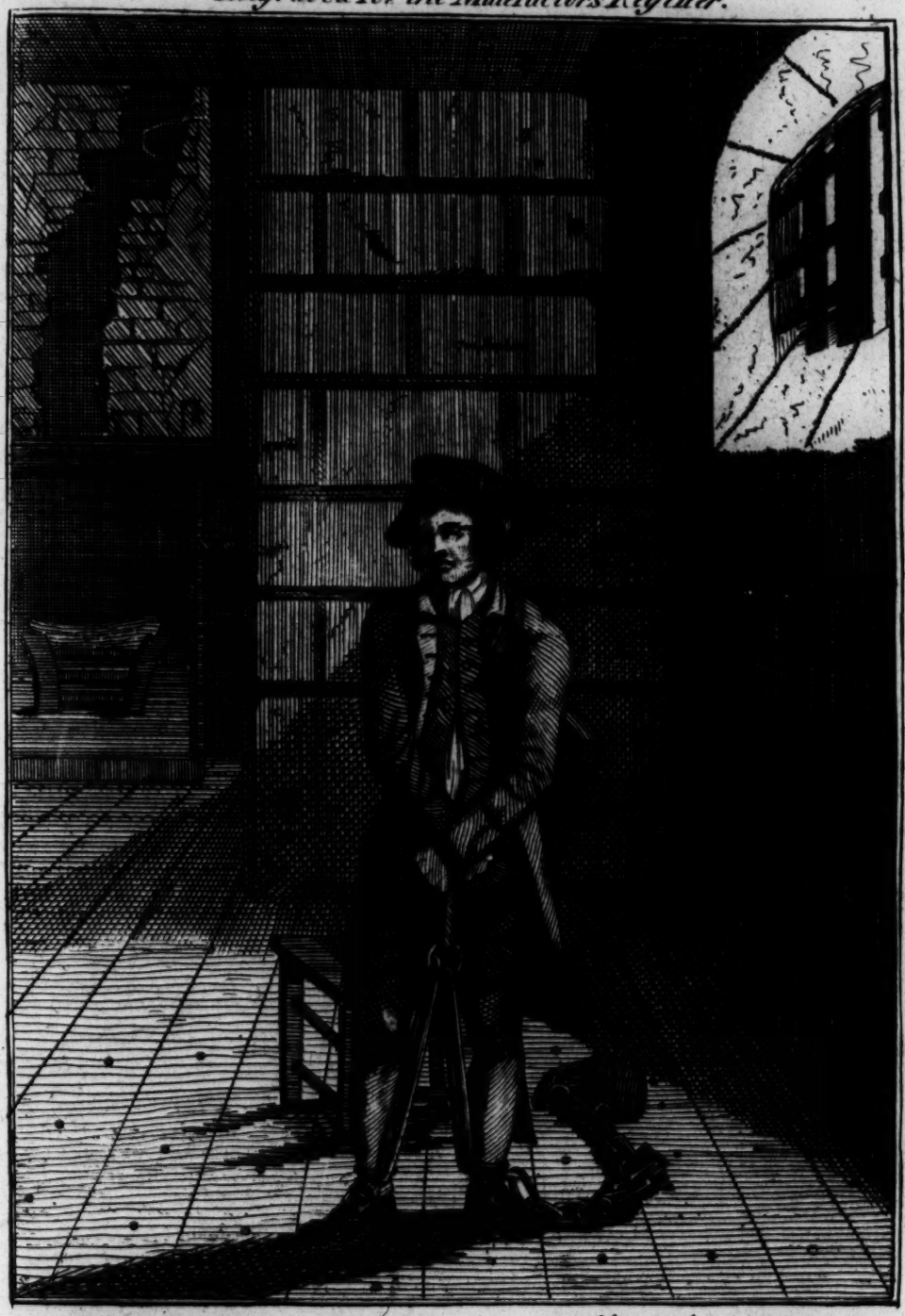
Notwithſtanding this diſadvantageous ſituation, Sheppard was continually employing his thoughts on the means of another eſcape. On the 14th of October the ſeſſions began at the Old Bailey, and the keepers being much engaged in attending the court, he thought they would have little time to viſit him; and therefore the preſent juncture would be the moſt favourable to carry his plan into execution.

About two o'clock in the afternoon of the following day one of the keepers carried him his dinner, and having carefully examined his irons, and finding them faſt, he left him for the day.

Some days before this Jack had found a ſmall nail in the room, with which he could, at pleaſure, unlock the padlock that went from the chain to the ſtaple in the floor; and in his own account of this tranſaction, he ſays, "that he was frequently about the room, and had ſeveral times "ſlept on the barracks, when the keepers imagined he had not been out of his chair."

The keeper had not left him more than an hour when he began his operations. He firſt took off his hand-cuffs, and then opened the padlock that faſtened the chain to the ſtaple. He next, by mere ſtrength, twiſted aſunder a ſmall link of the

Engraved for the Malefactors Regiſter.



Jack Sheppard *in the Room Called the* Caſtle, *in* Newgate.



chain between his legs, and then drawing up his fetters as high as he could, he made them faſt with his garters.

He then attempted to get up the chimney; but had not advanced far before he was ſtopped by an iron-bar that went acroſs it; on which he deſcended, and with a piece of his broken chain picked out the mortar, and moving a ſmall ſtone or two, about ſix feet from the floor, he got out the iron bar, which was three feet long and an inch ſquare, and proved very ſerviceable to him in his future proceedings.

He in a ſhort time made ſuch a breach as to enable him to get into the Red-room over the caſtle; and here he found a large nail, which he made uſe of in his farther operations. It was ſeven years ſince the door of this Red-room had been opened: but Sheppard wrenched off the lock in leſs than ſeven minutes, and got into the paſſage leading to the chapel. In this place he found a door which was bolted on the oppoſite ſide; but making a hole through the wall, he puſhed the bolt back, and opened the door.

Arriving at the door of the chapel, he broke off one of the iron ſpikes, which keeping for his farther uſe, he got into an entry between the chapel and the lower leads. The door of this entry was remarkably ſtrong, and faſtened with a large lock; and night now coming on, Sheppard was obliged to work in the dark. Notwithſtanding this diſadvantage, he, in half an hour, forced open the box of the lock, and opened the door; but this led him to another room ſtill more difficult, for it was barred and bolted as well as locked: however, he wrenched the fillet from

the main poſt of the door, and the box and ſtaples came off with it.

It was now eight o'clock, and Sheppard found no farther obſtruction to his proceedings; for he had only one other door to open, which being bolted on the inſide, it was opened without difficulty, and he got over a wall to the upper leads.

He now conſidered how he ſhould deſcend with the greateſt ſafety, and found that the moſt convenient place for him to alight on would be the turner's houſe adjoining to Newgate: but as it would have been very dangerous to have jumped to ſuch a depth, he went back for the blanket with which he uſed to cover himſelf when he ſlept in the caſtle; and endeavoured to faſten his ſtocking to the blanket, to eaſe his deſcent; but not being able to do ſo, he was compelled to uſe the blanket alone: wherefore he made it faſt to the wall of Newgate with the ſpike that he took out of the chapel; and ſliding down, dropped on the turner's leads juſt as the clock ſtruck nine.

It happened that the door of the garret next the turner's leads was open, on which he ſtole ſoftly down two pair of ſtairs, and heard ſome company talking in a room. His irons clinking, a woman cried, "What noiſe is that?" and a man anſwered, "perhaps the dog or cat."

Sheppard, who was now horridly fatigued, returned to the garret, and laid down for more than two hours; after which he crept down once more as far as the room where the company were, when he heard a gentleman taking his leave of the family, and ſaw the maid light him down ſtairs. As ſoon as the maid returned he reſolved to venture at all hazards; but in ſtealing down the ſtairs he ſtumbled againſt a chamber-door; but

but inſtantly recovering himſelf, he got into the ſtreet.

By this time it was after twelve o'clock, and paſſing by the watch-houſe of St. Sepulchre, he bid the watchmen good-morrow, and going up Holborn, he turned down Gray's-Inn-Lane, and about two in the morning got into the fields near Tottenham-Court, where he took ſhelter in a place that had been a cow houſe, and ſlept ſoundly about three hours. His fetters being ſtill on, his legs were greatly bruiſed and ſwelled, and he dreaded the approach of day-light, leſt he ſhould be diſcovered. He had now above forty ſhillings in his poſſeſſion, but was afraid to ſend to any perſon for aſſiſtance.

At ſeven in the morning it began to rain hard, and continued to do ſo all day, ſo that no perſon appeared in the fields: and during this melancholy day he would, to uſe his own expreſſion, "have given his right hand for a hammer, a "chiſſel, and a punch." Night coming on, and being preſſed by hunger, he ventured to a little chandler's ſhop in Tottenham Court Road, where he got a ſupply of bread, cheeſe, ſmall-beer, and ſome other neceſſaries, hiding his irons with a long great coat. He aſked the woman of the houſe for a hammer; but ſhe had no ſuch utenſil; on which he retired to the cow-houſe, where he ſlept that night, and remained all the next day.

At night he went again to the chandler's ſhop, ſupplied himſelf with proviſions, and returned to his hiding place. At ſix the next morning, which was Sunday, he began to beat the baſils of his fetters with a ſtone, in order to bring them to an oval form, to ſlip his heels through. In the afternoon the maſter of the cow-houſe coming

thither, and ſeeing his irons, ſaid, " For God's " ſake who are you?" Sheppard ſaid he was an unfortunate young fellow, who having had a baſtard child ſworn to him, and not being able to give ſecurity to the pariſh for its ſupport, he had been ſent to Bridewell, from whence he had made his eſcape. The man ſaid if that was all it did not much ſignify, but he did not care how ſoon he was gone, for he did not like his looks.

Soon after he was gone Sheppard ſaw a journeyman ſhoemaker, to whom he told the ſame ſtory of the baſtard-child, and offered him twenty ſhillings if he would procure a ſmith's hammer and a punch. The poor man, tempted by the reward, procured them accordingly, and aſſiſted him in getting rid of his irons, which work was compleated by five o'clock in the evening.

When night come on our adventurer tied a handkerchief about his head, tore his woollen cap in ſeveral places, and likewiſe tore his coat and ſtockings, ſo as to have the appearance of a beggar; and in this condition he went to a cellar near Charing-Croſs, where he ſupped on roaſted veal, and liſtened to the converſation of the company, all of whom were talking of the eſcape of Sheppard.

On the Monday he ſheltered himſelf at a public-houſe of little trade, in Rupert-ſtreet, and converſing with the landlady about Sheppard, he told her it was impoſſible for him to get out of the kingdom; and the keepers would certainly have him again in a few days; on which the woman wiſhed that a curſe might fall on thoſe who ſhould betray him. Remaining in this place till evening, he went into the Hay-market, where a croud of people were ſurrounding two ballad-ſingers,

ers, and liſtening to a ſong made on his adventures and eſcape.

On the next day he hired a garret in Newport-market, and ſoon afterwards, dreſſing himſelf like a porter, he went to Black-friars, to the houſe of Mr. Applebee, printer of the dying-ſpeeches, and delivered a letter, in which he ridiculed the printer, and the Ordinary of Newgate, and encloſed a letter for one of the keepers of Newgate.

Some nights after this he broke open the ſhop of Mr. Rawlins, a pawnbroker in Drury-Lane, where he ſtole a ſword, a ſuit of wearing apparel, ſome ſnuff-boxes, rings, watches, and other effects to a conſiderable amount. Determining to make the appearance of a gentleman among his old acquaintance in Drury-Lane and Clare-Market, he dreſſed himſelf in a ſuit of black and a tye-wig, wore a ruffled ſhirt, a ſilver-hilted ſword, a diamond ring, and a gold watch; though he knew that diligent ſearch was making after him at that very time.

On the 31ſt of October he dined with two women at a public-houſe in Newgate-ſtreet, and about four in the afternoon they all paſſed under Newgate in a hackney coach, having firſt drawn up the blinds. Going in the evening to a public-houſe in May-pole Alley, Clare-market, Sheppard ſent for his mother, and treated her with brandy, when the poor woman dropped on her knees, and begged he would immediately quit the kingdom, which he promiſed to do, but had no intention of keeping his word.

Being now grown valiant through an exceſs of liquor, he wandered from alehouſes to gin-ſhops in the neighbourhood till near twelve o'clock at night, when he was apprehended in conſequence of the information of an alehouſe-boy who knew

him.

him. When taken into cuſtody he was quite ſenſeleſs, from the quantity and variety of liquors he had drank, and was conveyed to Newgate in a coach, without being capable of making the leaſt reſiſtance, though he had two piſtols then in his poſſeſſion.

His fame was now ſo much encreaſed by his exploits that he was viſited by great numbers of people, and ſome of them of the higheſt quality. He endeavoured to divert them by a recital of the particulars of many robberies in which he had been concerned; and when any noblemen came to ſee him, he never failed to beg that they would intercede with the king for a pardon, to which he thought that his ſingular dexterity gave him ſome pretenſions.

Having been already convicted, he was carried to the bar of the court of King's-Bench on the 10th of November, and the record of his conviction being read, and an affidavit being made that he was the ſame John Sheppard mentioned in the record, ſentence of death was paſſed on him by Mr. Juſtice Powis, and a rule of court was made for his execution on the Monday following.

He regularly attended the prayers in the chapel, but though he behaved with decency there, he affected mirth before he went thither, and endeavoured to prevent any degree of ſerioufneſs among the other priſoners on their return.

Even when the day of execution arrived, Sheppard did not appear to have given over all expectations of eluding juſtice; for having been furniſhed with a penknife, he put it in his pocket, with a view, when the melancholy proceſſion came oppoſite Little Turnſtile, to have cut the cord that bound his arms, and throwing himſelf out of the cart, among the crowd, to have run through

through the narrow paſſage, where the ſheriffs officers could not follow on horſeback; and he had no doubt but he ſhould make his eſcape, by the aſſiſtance of the mob.

It is not impoſſible but that this ſcheme might have ſucceeded: but before Sheppard left the preſs-yard, one Watſon, an officer, ſearching his pockets, found the knife, and was cut with it, ſo as to occaſion a great effuſion of blood.

Sheppard had yet a farther view to his preſervation, even after execution; for he deſired his acquaintance to put him into a warm bed as ſoon as he ſhould be cut down; and try to open a vein, which he had been told would reſtore him to life.

He behaved with great decency at the place of execution, and confeſſed the having committed two robberies, for which he had been tried and acquitted. He was executed at Tyburn on the 16th of November, 1724, in the 23d year of his age. He died with difficulty, and was much pitied by the ſurrounding multitude. When he was cut down his body was delivered to his friends, who carried him to a public-houſe in Long-Acre, whence he was removed in the evening, and buried in the church-yard of St. Martin in the Fields.

It is aſtoniſhing to think how much Sheppard and his adventures engaged the attention of the public. For a conſiderable time there was ſcarcely a ſubject of converſation but himſelf. There were ſeveral different hiſtories of his life; and a variety of prints were worked off, repreſenting his eſcapes from the condemned hold, and from the caſtle in Newgate; and there were likewiſe ſeveral other prints of his perſon; the beſt of which was a mezzotinto, done from an original painting of Sir James Thornhill, which gave riſe to the following ingenious lines.

Thornhill,

Thornhill, 'tis thine to gild with fame
Th' obſcure, and raiſe the humble name;
To make the form elude the grave,
And Sheppard from oblivion ſave.

Tho' life in vain the wretch implores,
An exile on the fartheſt ſhores,
Thy pencil brings a kind reprieve,
And bids the dying robber live.

This piece to lateſt time ſhall ſtand,
And ſhew the wonders of thy hand.
Thus former maſters grac'd their name,
And gave egregious robbers fame.

Appelles, Alexander drew,
Cæſar is to Aurellius due,
Cromwell in Lely's works doth ſhine,
And Sheppard, Thornhill, lives in thine.

It was even thought proper to repreſent Sheppard's actions on the ſtage. A pantomime entertainment was contrived, in which the ſcenes were painted from the places of action. It bore the name of "Harlequin Sheppard; a night-ſcene in "groteſque characters," and was repreſented at the Theatre-Royal in Drury-Lane.

Another piece was printed, but never acted at the Theatres. It was a farce of three acts, called, "The Priſon Breaker; or the Adven-"tures of John Sheppard." After being neglected ſome time a number of ſongs and catches were intermixed with it; and having received the name of "The Quaker's Opera," it was exhibited at Bartholomew-Fair.

Sheppard's adventures were not thought unworthy the notice even of the pulpit. The following

lowing is given as the concluſion of a ſermon preached ſoon after his ſecond eſcape from Newgate.

——" Now, my beloved, what a melancholy " conſideration it is, that men ſhould ſhew ſo " much regard for the preſervation of a poor " periſhing body, that can remain at moſt but a " few years; and at the ſame time be ſo unac- " countably negligent of a precious ſoul, which " muſt continue to the age of eternity! O what " care! what pains! what diligence! and what " contrivances are made uſe of for, and laid out " upon, theſe frail and tottering tabernacles of " clay: when alas! the nobler part of us is al- " lowed ſo very ſmall a ſhare of our concern, " that we ſcarce will give ourſelves the trouble " of beſtowing a thought upon it.

" We have a remarkable inſtance of this, in a " notorious malefactor, well known by the name " of Jack Sheppard! what amazing difficulties " has he overcome, what aſtoniſhing things has " he performed, for the ſake of a ſtinking mi- " ſerable carcaſe, hardly worth hanging? how " dexterouſly did he pick the padlock of his " chain with a crooked nail? how manfully did he " burſt his fetters aſunder, climb up the chim- " ney, wrench out an iron bar, break his way " through a ſtone wall, and make the ſtrong " doors of a dark entry fly before him, till he " got upon the leads of the priſon? and then, " fixing a blanket to the wall with a ſpike he " ſtole out of the chapel, how intrepidly did he " deſcend to the top of the turner's houſe, and " how cautiouſly paſs down the ſtairs, and make " his eſcape at the ſtreet-door!

" O that ye were all like Jack Sheppard!—
" Miſtake me not, my brethren, I don't mean in
" a carnal, but in a ſpiritual ſenſe, for I purpoſe
" to ſpiritualize theſe things.——What a ſhame
" it would be if we ſhould not think it worth our
" while to take as much pains, and employ as
" many deep thoughts to ſave our ſouls, as he
" has done to preſerve his body!

" Let me exhort ye then to open the *locks* of
" your *hearts* with the *nail* of *repentance*; burſt
" aſunder the *fetters* of your *beloved luſts*; mount
" the *chimney* of *hope*, take from hence the *bar* of
" *good reſolution*, break through the *ſtone-wall* of
" *deſpair*, and all the *ſtrong holds* in the *dark entry*
" of the *valley of the ſhadow of death*: Raiſe your-
" ſelves to the *leads* of *divine meditation*: Fix the
" *blanket* of *faith* with the *ſpike* of the *church*. Let
" yourſelves down to the *turner's houſe* of *reſigna-*
" *tion*, and deſcend the *ſtairs* of *humility*: So ſhall
" you come to the *door* of *deliverance* from the *pri-*
" *ſon* of *iniquity*, and *eſcape* the clutches of that
" old *executioner* the *devil*, who goeth about like
" a roaring lion, ſeeking whom he may devour."

After the long account we have given of this malefactor, it will be the leſs neceſſary to extend our remarks on his caſe. It ſpeaks for itſelf; it tells us how much more labour it requires to be a thief than an honeſt man. Indeed, if young people would but reflect for a moment, they would ſee that the practice of vice is, and muſt be, attended with the utmoſt pain and anxiety; and that " Wiſdom's ways are pleaſantneſs, and all her " paths are peace."

Nar-

Narrative of the Caſes of THOMAS PACKER, and JOSEPH PICKEN, who were hanged for Robbery.

THOMAS PACKER was a native of London, his father being a ſhoemaker in Butcher-Hall-Lane, Newgate-ſtreet. He was bound apprentice to the maſter of the Ship-Tavern at Greenwich; but not being content in his ſituation, he was turned over to a vintner, who kept the Rummer-Tavern, near Red Lion Square; and having ſerved the reſt of his time, he lived as a waiter in different places.

He had not been long out of his time before he married; but the expences of his new connection, added to thoſe ariſing from the extravagance of his diſpoſition, ſoon reduced him to circumſtances of diſtreſs.

JOSEPH PICKEN was likewiſe a native of London, being the ſon of a taylor in Clerkenwell; but his father dying while he was an infant, he was educated by his mother, who placed him with a vintner near Billingſgate, with whom he ſerved an apprenticeſhip, after which he married, and kept the tap of the Mermaid Inn at Windſor: but his wife being a bad manager, and his buſineſs being much neglected, he was ſoon reduced to the utmoſt extremity of poverty.

Being obliged even to ſell his bed, and ſleep on the floor, his wife adviſed him to go on the highway, to ſupply their neceſſities. Fatally for him, he liſtened to her advice, and repaired to London, where, on the following day, he fell into company with Packer, who had been an old acquaintance.

The poverty of theſe unhappy men tempted them to make a ſpeedy reſolution of committing depredations on the public; in conſequence of

which they hired horſes as to go to Windſor; but inſtead thereof they rode towards Finchley, and, in a road between Highgate and Hornſey, they robbed two farmers, whom they compelled to diſmount, and turned their horſes looſe.

Haſtening to London with their ill-gotten booty, they went to a public-houſe in Monmouth-ſtreet, where one of them taking his handkerchief out of his pocket, accidentally drew out his piſtol with it, which being remarked by a perſon in company, he procured a peace-officer, who took them into cuſtody on ſuſpicion.

Having been lodged in the Round-houſe for that night, they were taken before a magiſtrate on the following day; and being ſeparately examined, diſagreed much in their tale; and the parties who had been robbed attending, and ſwearing to their perſons, they were committed for trial.

When they were brought to the bar they endeavoured to prove that they were abſent from the ſpot at the time that the robbery was committed; but failing in this, a verdict of guilty was given againſt them, and they received ſentence of death.

After conviction they behaved with every ſign of contrition. Picken was in a very bad ſtate of health almoſt the whole time he lay under ſentence of death; and complained much of the ingratitude of his wife, who firſt adviſed him to the commiſſion of the crime, yet never viſited him during his miſerable confinement in Newgate. Theſe unhappy men prepared to meet their fate with decent reſignation, and received the ſacrament with every ſign of genuine devotion.

They were executed at Tyburn on the 1ſt of February, 1725, but were ſo ſhocked at the idea

of

of their approaching diſſolution, that they trembled with the dreadful apprehenſion, and were unable to give that advice to the ſurrounding multitude, which, however, might be eaſily implied from their pitiable condition.

It does not appear, from any account tranſmitted to us, that theſe men had been guilty of any robbery but the ſingle one for which they ſuffered.

Hence we may learn how very ſhort is the date of vice! It may be urged that the extremity of their poverty was a temptation to the commiſſion of the crime; but let it be remembered that a ſtate of the moſt abject poverty is preferable to the life of a thief. An honeſt man, be he ever ſo poor, need not bluſh to look the firſt man in the kingdom in the face.

The man who does unto others as he would they ſhould do unto him, will enjoy the approbation of his own conſcience; and may conſider himſelf as equal in character to the greateſt monarch in the univerſe.

Caſe of VINCENT DAVIS, who was hanged for the Murder of his Wife.

THIS malefactor, who followed the trade of a butcher in Smithfield, behaved with cruelty to his wife, and, though he had been married ſome years, accuſtomed himſelf to keep company with women of ill fame.

Going out one Sunday morning he ſtaid till noon; and coming home to dinner went out again ſoon afterwards, and was directly followed by his wife, who found him drinking with ſome bad women at a houſe in Pye-Corner; and coming home, mentioned this circumſtance to her neighbours.

Soon

Soon afterwards the huſband returned; and uſing ſome threatening expreſſions, the wife deſired a lodger in the ſame houſe to go down ſtairs with her, leaſt he ſhould beat her. The woman accordingly attended her, and was witneſs to Davis's beating her in a barbarous manner, and threatening to murder her becauſe ſhe had interrupted him while in the company of the other women. Hereupon the wife ran away, and ſecreted herſelf for a time; but returning to her lodgings, begged admiſſion into her landlady's room, who hid her behind the bed.

In the interim the huſband had been out; but returning, went to bed, and when his wife thought he was aſleep, ſhe went into the room to ſearch his pockets, in which ſhe found only a few halfpence, and coming down ſtairs, ſaid that her huſband had laid a knife by the bed ſide, from which ſhe concluded that he had an intention of murdering her.

Mrs. Davis being concealed during the night, the landlady went into the huſband's room in the morning, and ſaid, "What do you mean by "threatening to commit murder in my houſe?" On this he ſnatched up his knife, and the landlady having taken hold of a ſmall cane, he took it from her, ſaying he valued it as his life; as he kept it to beat his wife with.

In the evening of this day the wife and landlady finding him at the before-mentioned houſe in Pye Corner, he beat his wife moſt ſeverely; on which the landlady adviſed Mrs. Davis to ſwear the peace againſt him, and have him impriſoned, as ſhe had done on a former ſimilar occaſion. About an hour after this he went home, and ſaid to his wife, "What buſineſs have you here, or any

"where

" where in my company ?—You ſhall follow me " no more ; for I am married to little Jenny."

The wife, who ſeems to have had more love for him than ſuch a miſcreant deſerved, ſaid ſhe could not help it, but ſhe would drink with him and be friends ; and, on his taking his ſupper to an alehouſe, ſhe followed him ; but ſoon returned with her hand bloody, ſaying he had cut her fingers.

On his return he directed his wife to light him to his room, which ſhe did, and earneſtly entreated him to be reconciled to her ; but inſtead of making any kind of reply, he drew his knife, and following her into the landlady's room, he there ſtabbed her in the breaſt.

Thus wounded, the poor wretch ran down ſtairs, and was followed by the murderer. She was ſheltered in a neighbouring houſe, where ſitting down, and pulling off her ſtomacher, ſhe bled to to death in about half an hour.

In the interim the landlady called the watchmen, who ſoon apprehended Davis, and conducted him to the houſe where the dead woman lay ; on which he ſaid, " Betty, won't you ſpeak to " me ?" A woman who was preſent ſaid, " You " will find, to your ſorrow, that ſhe will never " ſpeak more ;" and to this the murderer replied, " Well, I know I ſhall be hanged ; and I would " as ſoon ſuffer for her as another."

Being committed to the care of a peace-officer, he was conveyed to priſon, in his way to which he ſaid, " I have killed the beſt wife in the " world, and I am certain of being hanged ; but " for God's ſake don't let me be anatomized."

When he was brought to his trial, the above recited facts were proved by the teſtimony of ſeveral witneſſes ; and on the jury pronouncing the

verdict of guilty, he execrated the court with the moſt profane imprecations.

While he lay under ſentence of death he affected a falſe bravery, till orders were given for his execution, when his aſſumed courage left him, and he appeared greatly terrified at his approaching fate. He had ſuch a dread of falling into the hands of the ſurgeons, that he ſent letters to ſeveral of his acquaintance, begging they would reſcue his body, if any attempt ſhould be made to take it away.

He was hanged at Tyburn on the 30th of April, 1725, behaving in the moſt gloomy and reſerved manner at the place of execution.

The anxiety this miſerable wretch expreſſed for the care of his body after having perpetrated ſuch an unprovoked murder as he might well ſuppoſe would hazard the ſalvation of his ſoul, affords a melancholy picture how much concerned we can be for ſmaller matters, to the neglect of the more important. It ſhould teach us how ſuperior the value of the ſoul is, to that of a poor frail carcaſs; ſince the former muſt exiſt to all eternity, while the latter, in a few years at the moſt, will moulder into duſt!

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